

Wednesday April 24 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.00	Algeria L 2.00	Amman J 1.00	Antananarivo M 1.00	Asmara N 1.00	Athens G 1.00	Bahrain B 1.00	Bangkok B 1.00	Batavia I 1.00	Bombay I 1.00	Buenos Aires A 1.00	Calcutta I 1.00	Cairo E 1.00	Canton H 1.00	Cebu P 1.00	Colombo S 1.00	Dakar S 1.00	Dhaka B 1.00	Dublin I 1.00	Geneva S 1.00	Hankow C 1.00	Hong Kong H 2.50	London W 1.00	Lyons F 1.00	Manila P 1.00	Medan I 1.00	Mumbai I 1.00	Nairobi K 1.00	Paris F 1.00	Rangoon B 1.00	Seoul S 1.00	Singapore S 1.00	Taipei T 1.00	Tokyo J 1.00	Zurich S 1.00
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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,535

How supermarkets control what we buy

Who's your favourite?

G2 will...

Catherine Bennett on the woman behind the mask

The Queen of heart surgery

G2 pages 10/11

Society

Why America loves nuclear

G2 pages 10/11

Brussels angered by lack of clear BSE action plan

EU snubs Hogg on beef ban

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Michael White

DOUGLAS Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, returned empty-handed from his latest talks with the European Commission in Brussels yesterday, with no promise of an early end to the European Union's beef ban despite days of Conservative bluster and hints of a trade war.

During fevered exchanges in the Commons John Major ruled out illegal retaliation, while refusing to identify the other options ministers might deploy if all else fails. It prompted Tony Blair, the Labour leader, to dub his indecisive stance on the crisis as a "Grand Old Duke of York strategy", while Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, called it "five weeks of fiasco".



Diary of a Climbdown

In two hours of frosty talks with Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, Mr Hogg was warned that the Government will have to produce more detailed measures at a meeting of EU agriculture ministers in Luxembourg on Monday before lifting the ban could be considered.

The ban is unlikely to be removed for several weeks, if not months, even if British proposals are agreed on Monday. That is by no means certain because the commission has made it clear they will have to be in place and working before there can be any recommendation of a return to normal.

The impasse is bound to heighten the dangers for Mr Major's leadership as right-wing Tory critics step up the pressure for unilateral action, though key players like John Redwood reject talk of illegality such as withholding budget payments.

In a diversionary ploy, the Prime Minister will use a speech to the Institute of Directors today to talk tough against backdoor EU encroachments against Britain's social chapter opt-out. He will warn that "subsequent shifts in the direction of EU law could make it impossible for him to agree to new laws."

Following Monday's upheavals in London and Luxembourg in which ministers appeared first to encourage, then to dampen speculation that Mr Major might initiate retaliatory bans on European agricultural exports to Britain, Mr Hogg admitted that he had made no threats at yesterday's meeting.

He told journalists: "There was no discussion of retaliation. We were talking about how together we can satisfy

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
 Watch out, Europe. John Major is "incandescent" over the EU beef ban. He calls European leaders "a bloody bunch of shits", according to the Sunday Express. He is studying possible retaliatory import bans, according to briefings to the Financial Times and Daily Telegraph.

MONDAY, APRIL 22
 Gumbo diplomacy: Malcolm Rifkind refuses to rule out import bans. "No country, not just the UK, could accept an indefinite, comprehensive ban that is not required for health reasons."

Second thoughts: Michael Heseltine, on Channel 4 News, arguing against macho solutions, says: "We are in the business of trying to find a sensible diplomatic answer to this issue."

TUESDAY, APRIL 23
 Rifkind reconsidered: "I don't see the United Kingdom, which is one of the most law-abiding countries in the world, contemplating breaking the law."

Journalists "misunderstood": Downing Street, chiding the press. "The Government has followed a consistent line all the way through."

A British victory: Douglas Hogg declares the end of the beef ban is in sight after useful and constructive talks with Franz Fischler.

Perhaps not: Britain has a week to come up with revised proposals, otherwise the ban stays.

the Council of Ministers, the veterinary committee and the commission as to the fullness of the steps we have taken, and as to our earnest desire to see a substantial reduction in the incidence of BSE.

"It is our belief that British beef is safe and we were work-

ing together to try to bring about a solution to this problem.

Notably more restrained beside him, Mr Fischler made it clear that the ban would not be lifted until further measures had been adopted. He said: "Those controls have to convince us that the prerequisites are there for removing the export ban. The quicker this can take place the better."

Brussels officials made little secret of their annoyance that Mr Hogg had produced no additional proposals to prove British seriousness about eradicating BSE, three weeks after he was asked to do so at the last agriculture ministers' meeting.

Mr Fischler said: "As to specific proposals in writing, there are something we are looking at. We are not sure what EU officials see as 'British frivolousness' in tackling the crisis of public confidence in the European beef business and bemusement that the Government should resort to threats when it needs help and money to resolve the crisis."

Mr Fischler made clear to MEPs on Monday that the slaughtering of some younger cattle in herds where there have been cases of BSE will have to be accepted and implemented before the ban can be lifted. The measures will also be monitored for an unspecified period to check that they are working.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, insisted yesterday that there was no question of Britain acting illegally to force the lifting of the ban. Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, reinforced the message by saying on BBC radio: "It would have been naive and irresponsible for us to have started issuing threats to senior European colleagues."

Although the commission hinted at eventually lifting the ban for grass-reared cattle — if the Government can provide guarantees that the meat from particular organically-reared herds is not infected — and on some supplementary products, there was little sign from Britain that extra measures are being formulated.

Despite suggestions that the Government might put forward proposals to cull an additional 40,000 cattle from herds where there have been cases of BSE, no figures were discussed yesterday.

Germany has already made clear that it will not accept any British beef until it has received proof that the disease is eradicated — something that will take years to achieve.

Beef protest, page 2; London court case, page 6



Richard Branson sweeping Liza Minelli off her feet at Virgin Megastore's launch in New York. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE CHESTNUT

Virgin chief in sex lawsuit

Alex Bellos

RICHARD BRANSON, the head of Virgin and self-styled boy's own hero, is being sued for sexual harassment by a former senior manager who claims he fondled her breasts.

Mr Branson, who was in New York yesterday to open a Virgin Megastore, immediately dismissed the allegations as a cheap publicity stunt to spoil the launch. He said: "The allegations are not true. They have no legal or factual basis. We will be going to court to get it struck out and are confident we will succeed. Anyone in business in the US nowadays has to accept this sort of thing."

The lawsuit was filed in a New York federal court by Elizabeth Hinko, who was appointed as Virgin Atlantic's Manhattan public relations manager in 1992. She accuses Mr Branson of sexual harassment and subsequent discrimination that led to her dismissal last year.

Ms Hinko claims that in May 1994, at a media party at Mr Branson's London estate, he made unwelcome sexual advances by fondling and grabbing her breasts in front of other employees and guests. She claims that her problems had started that year when David Tall, a Virgin executive vice-president whom she is also suing, began harassing her and publicly ridiculing her.

Ms Hinko is seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, back pay and reinstatement. Should the airline fail to reimburse her, she is asking the court to order it to pay her future wages, pension bonuses and other lost benefits.

Mr Branson said that his family and 70 members of the press were at the party and added: "It is worth noting that the alleged incident supposedly took place two years ago and this is the first I have heard about it."

Chernobyl fire kindles fears of radioactivity

JUST A SMALL ONE.

David Hearst in Moscow

STRONG winds were blowing black pillars of radioactive smoke towards Kiev last night after fire swept through five derelict and highly contaminated villages in Ukraine's exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

The blaze came three days before the 10th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident, and started when a cigarette butt was dropped in tinder-dry conditions.



Last night, there were conflicting views about the danger of radioactive smoke. Some radiologists feared the fire would carry radioactive material out of the 19-mile exclusion zone. Vadim Grishenko, deputy head of Ukraine's environment ministry's nuclear-safety department, said: "If the fire is allowed to burn much longer, it will certainly carry some radionuclides beyond the exclusion zone and threaten the outside population."

Former residents, who are allowed to return to their former homes once a year and to tend graves, watched in horror as the flames took hold about noon.

Firemen from Chernobyl station, which was not threatened by the fire, rushed to the scene and helicopters flew in personnel and equipment.

After two hours, the fire was still not under control.

At the sight of flames engulfing family graves, some of those visiting their former homes broke down in tears and refused to leave the site.

A fireman at the scene said: "So far we have no sign that anyone has died in the fire, but it is spreading very quickly."

of the Kiev fire department, said forest fires were common and radioactivity at the site was not increasing. But after two explosions at Chernobyl's number four reactor 10 years ago, there are concentrations of high radioactivity all round the reactor site.

Ukraine's official news media also played down the danger of nuclear-dust particles spreading into the atmosphere.

But Anthony Froggatt, a spokesman for Greenpeace in Kiev, said: "Fires are one of the major ways that radionuclides travel to uncontaminated regions. This is clearly a danger to the health of people, and not only in Ukraine. About 800 people have moved back permanently into the zone in defiance of government exclusion orders."

Last weekend, at the nuclear summit in Moscow, Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine's president, told a meeting of the G7 leaders of his decision to close one of two remaining working reactors at Chernobyl. A study by western-European scientists is due to be completed by the end of the year on the dangerously cracked state of the concrete sarcophagus encasing the reactor core, which is still burning inside.



Cameron award for O'Kane

GUARDIAN journalist Maggie O'Kane last night received the 1996 James Cameron Award for international and domestic

reporting "of the highest quality". These included her work marking the 50th anniversary of the Gulf war and her investigation into the lives of child prostitutes in Bradford.

O'Kane, described in the citation as a "truth-seeking maverick, unimpaired by fear," has twice been named Journalist of the year.

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Sketch

Tens of laughs as play on words fails to add up

Simon Hoggart

Ms often debate who won Prime Minister's Questions, though like the old Soviet Union ice skating judges, they tend to make sure the right side gets the points. Yesterday I thought Tony Blair was the clear winner. For one reason, he was obviously listening to what Mr Major was saying and responding to it; a riposte sounds much sharper when it clearly hasn't been scripted in advance. Then Mr Major himself was also under pressure. You can tell he's rattled when he produces a stack of Majorisms. Majorisms aren't meaningless blether, like George Bush's Bushisms, or simply bonkers, like Ronald Reagan's Reaganisms. Instead they are peculiar, witty and fey — perfectly grammatical, but in a deeper, more profound way, quite meaningless. For instance, Hilary Armstrong (Lab, Durham NW) quoted Sir James Goldsmith, who had asked about the Prime Minister: "How can people be expected to follow a man who zig-zags so much?" Mr Major replied: "I can think of some prominent politicians who have made it their life's work in the last two years to deny everything they previously stood for."

This was a reference to Tony Blair. But how can you have a life's work which has lasted only two years? He did not explain. Instead he went on: "You might look at some of the pamphlets produced, in which many tens of Labour members show their sharp differences with the Labour Party's front bench policies!" "Many tens?" Labour MPs were delighted, and rolled the cloth-eared phrase around their mouths with noisy pleasure. Jacques Arnold (C, Gravesend) rose to object that if the Europeans don't allow our beef back in, we should withdraw both our co-operation and our money. With his voice like the rattle of a dead man's

bones, I have always suspected that Mr Arnold is dug up each morning by the whips, and brought to the Commons in a hearse. Now he has taken up the cause of the cows, I have a terrible fear that the whips might make a mistake, stun him humanely, and have him incinerated. This would be a tragedy for Mr Arnold and his family, but it would keep him out of the food chain. The Prime Minister replied that this course of action would be against the law, and Mr Arnold wouldn't want him to break the law, would he? Mr Blair picked up the subject. He suspected, he said, that "many tens" of Tories privately agreed with Mr Arnold. Not a dazzling joke, perhaps, but at least it showed he was listening. Mr Major said that if the Europeans did not lift the ban, "we will look at other options", to a mock cheer and cries of "Who-o-ah!" from the Labour benches. Mr Blair referred to reports that Mr Major had called other European leaders "bastards". This has the ring of truth; he seems to call most people bastards at one time or another. The Labour leader handled it well: "He calls the other heads of government er... a longish pause, "a bunch of somethings or other!" At the end of the session, Don Anderson asked him what new "measures of appeasement" he was planning to please Sir James Goldsmith. Mr Major replied: "The answer is very clear. None."

Now that's not a Majorism, but it may well be a fib. Later there was a debate on the new Northern Ireland elections, and Peter Robinson (UP, Belfast E) pointed out that under the strange rules, which allow representation for at least 10 political parties, the new negotiating body could easily have three members of the Natural Law Party. "Gerry Adams! The IRA has always known how to levitate buildings, but has generally preferred to use Semtex. Still, it's worth a try; everything else has failed."

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First night

Reason vs hate, fear and racism

Michael Billington

Twelve Angry Men Comedy Theatre

REGINALD ROSE'S Twelve Angry Men falls from the golden age of American television, was famously filmed by Sidney Lumet in 1957 and even parodied by Tony Hancock. But, as Harold Pinter's new production shows, it still has plenty of dramatic juice in it, partly because it offers the fascinating spectacle of people changing their mind under pressure of reason and partly because it exposes some of the myths surrounding the judicial system. Twelve New York jurors, on a sultry afternoon, are confronted by what looks like an open-and-shut case of first-degree murder. A 19-year-old boy has apparently killed his father. The case rests on the recovery of the switch-knife and the testimony of an old man who heard the boy threaten murder and a woman opposite who saw the killing take place through the windows of a passing train. But one juror expresses "reasonable doubt" by implication, through patient sifting of the evidence, swings his colleagues round. In one sense, the play is a product of its time: an all-white, all-male jury is asked to pronounce on what, by implication, is a black community killing. There is also an obvious dramatic weakness: the case on examination turns out to be so full of holes that it is hard to believe that even a reluctantly appointed defence counsel wouldn't, out of sheer

professional pride, have torn it to shreds. But the power of Rose's play lies in its exposure of the jury system. On one level, it shows how effectively it can sense prevail. But it also demonstrates, ruthlessly and un sentimentally, how people bring their weaknesses, paranoia and neurosis with them into the jury-room. One guy wants a quick verdict so he can get to a ball-game; another is revealed as a demented racist; a third sees the killing as an assault on patriarchal values. Far from being a hymn to the notion of "twelve good men and true", the play shows a dis-turbing cross-section of society. Pinter's production not only manages to keep the action fluid; it also points up the mania and muddle of the average jury. Kevin Whately bats effectively for liberal doubt, and Timothy West is scrupulously good as a broker finally swayed by logic. But the characters you remember are those filled by rage against a rapidly changing world: in particular, Tony Haygarth as a blistering redneck who finds in the case an echo of his own parental fears, and Peter Vaughan as a sick bigot who sees all ethnic minorities as "wild animals". I'd always thought of Twelve Angry Men as a paean to justice. This production brings out the play's devastating indictment of the racial and social panic at the heart of 1950s America. You could even say it puts the O. J. Simpson verdict in its historical context in that it reminds us of an era when to be black was to be automatically guilty. This review appeared in later editions yesterday

Beef exporters hand out steaks in cash protest

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

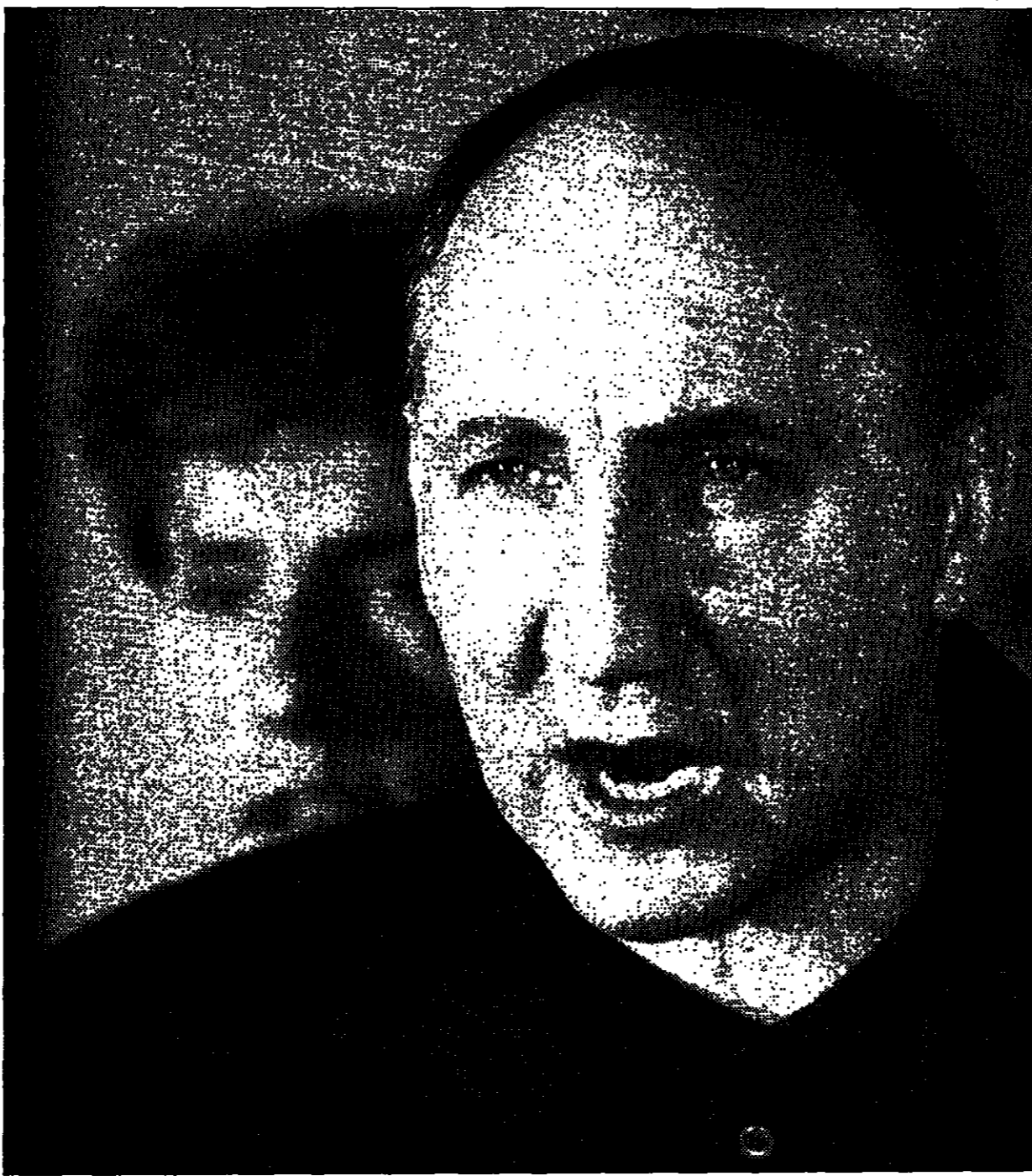
BEEF exporters are to sue the Ministry of Agriculture after being left with £35 million worth of stock impounded in warehouses or on the high seas in the wake of the BSE crisis. The beef was approved for human consumption before the Euro-

pean ban and condemned on its way to customers. It falls outside the Government's existing compensation payments system and some meat exporters face bankruptcy. Yesterday the International Meat Traders Association gave away £10,000 worth of Scottish beef in London to draw attention to their plight. Leader comment, page 8



Open-air masses... Hundreds of thousands of rock fans crowded into Hyde Park at the Stones In The Park concert in May 1969

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID NEWELL SMITH



Pete Townshend: 'Quadrophenia's spiritual epiphany transcends the generations'

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Rock dinosaurs will recall a distant epoch with mammoth Hyde Park gig

Alex Belles

HYDE PARK will be transformed into Jurassic Park this summer as rock dinosaurs stage what they hope will be the genre's largest concert for 20 years. The Who will perform their rock opera, Quadrophenia, and Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, and — with a cursory nod to the present day — the Canadian singer Alanis Morissette, are to play before an expected audience of up to 150,000. Launching the event yesterday, the Who's guitarist, Pete Townshend, who is now aged 50 and wrote Quadrophenia 22 years ago, said he wanted to put it on because of the message it gave to teenagers today. "It is very relevant," he said. "It is about a young man who manages to get through those really difficult teenage years. Isn't that what pop music's always about?" Looking like a preacher in a smart black suit, the balding mod said the plot's "spiritual epiphany" transcended the generations. When he first toured with Quadrophenia it "did clunk a bit", he said, but technology now meant it could be staged as a spectacle complete with video images, subtitles, and high-tech scenery. Roger Daltrey, the Who's singer, aged 52, will take the lead role and the group's bass-

ist, John Entwistle, aged 51, will play with an ensemble of 20 musicians. Zak Starkey, who, as the son of Ringo Starr, has perfect dinosaur credentials, will drum for the Who. He was given his first drumkit by the Who's original drummer, Keith Moon, now dead. The MasterCard Masters of Music Concert on June 29 will be the first rock concert in Hyde Park since 1976. However, the royal park is used to hosting large events both for the elderly and involving opera, having put on the VE Day celebrations last year and Pavarotti in the Park in 1991. Daltrey, who for a time featured his trout farm in American Express credit card commercials, admitted he was nervous about the concert. "It's a bit like looking forward to going to the dentist. It's good once you've done it," he said. The concert is timed to coincide with the eve of the final in Britain of the Euro '96 football championships, and is the main event of this year's National Music Festival. It is also the biggest one-day music event since Blackbushe in Berkshire in 1978 with Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton, according to the organiser, Harvey Goldsmith. Tom Shebbeare, director of the Prince's Trust, said the concert was expected to raise £500,000 for the charity. Tickets go on sale at £8 on Friday.

Brown attacks tax plans 'lies'

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

GORDON BROWN, the shadow chancellor, accused accountants and the tax avoidance industry yesterday of peddling lies about Labour's tax plans, taking money on false pretences, and selling dossiers to clients based on idle gossip and unformed rumour. Mr Brown's attempt to expose bogus expert advice on Labour's tax plans provoked calls from the accountancy profession for him to rectify any of its errors by publishing his party's plans. One accountancy firm, Ernst & Young, admitted its advice was based on educated guesses. The shadow chancellor's attack came at a Labour-sponsored conference marking the end of Tony Blair's eight month round of industry forum consultations. The forum heard strong calls from industrialists, including Ian Gibson, chief executive of Nissan, for governments to do more to invest in human capital and to improve the financing of small and medium sized firms. Mr Brown told the conference: "In the past few weeks we have seen dossiers of idle gossip, unformed rumour, inaccurate information and Conservative lies about Labour and they have all been made with no access to Labour's budget thinking. "People would be better gambling on the national lottery than on random advice coming from some of these sources. If in any other occupation peddling rumours and lies were the basis of advice, the authors would be sacked."

Advice

IN ITS Pre-Election Tax Planning document KPMG advises clients: Use offshore trusts for their tax benefits. Use full allowance for Peps and Pessas, in case Labour withdraws these. Place short-term taxable assets in trust for dependents. Take early retirement before the election in case the Capital Gains Tax rules are amended to encourage longer-term holdings. Gordon Brown said the claims that people who earn more than £40,000 will have less disposable income were "supposition converted into prediction". The accountants Smith & Williamson have published a guide entitled Financial Advice for a Change of Government. Like KPMG, it warns of a 50 per cent tax for the "super rich" who earn more than £80,000. It advises its wealthy clients to accelerate the receipt of income before the General Election.

cellor, Kenneth Clarke, had not been criticised last week for saying he would not begin to think about the Government's tax plans until weeks before the November budget. He also laid down the law to his own party after a month of speculation, which included Labour MPs calling for Labour to commit itself to a new higher rate of tax. "I will make the decisions on tax, I know the condition of the economy, and I will make them according to the principles which show Labour is interested in a fair deal for every taxpayer, and not penal taxation". Peter Hobbs, head of the tax faculty at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, described Mr Brown's attack as "a number of extreme statements, which would not be generally accepted in the tax profession". Gerry Hart, President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, the professional body for tax advisers, said: "He's bringing tax into the election debate again, which I thought is what they didn't want to do. The way to stop all this scare-mongering would be to publish their proposals. "If the firms are just setting out what they think might happen, there's nothing wrong with it. If they're saying 'this will happen', that's pushing it too far. Ernst & Young said: "Some degree of educated guessing is inevitable and we haven't disagreed that. We would be delighted to comment on a fully fledged tax policy document from Labour."

CBI fuels Tory fears of factory job losses

Richard Thomas and Simon Beavis

CONSERVATIVE fears that widespread factory job losses will damage the party's election prospects were underlined yesterday by a survey showing manufacturers shedding staff faster than for two years. Labour seized on news from the Confederation of British Industry that 16,000 workers were laid off between January and March to attack the Government. Following the leak of a memo revealing the fears of the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang, that thousands of manufacturing staff faced redundancy, the CBI's quarterly poll of 1,235 industrial companies confirmed that plummeting export orders had driven output to its lowest level since October 1993. Tony Blair, opening a Labour conference setting out the party's industrial policy plans to business, said Mr Lang and his colleagues pretended in public that policies were delivering a buoyant labour market, but knew the reality was different. The CBI said companies were optimistic that output and orders will bounce back in the current quarter as the domestic economy picks up. But previous hopes of an upturn have been dashed, and CBI officials were reluctant to predict an improvement. Even if order books fill up, the survey suggests job prospects will remain bleak.

The Open University logo and advertisement for French or German courses. Text includes: 'FRENCH OR GERMAN', 'Do you want to improve your French or German for career, pleasure or both?', 'DIPLOMA IN FRENCH OR GERMAN', 'The Open University's Centre for Modern Languages offers courses to help you enhance your knowledge of the language and culture of France or Germany leading to the award of a diploma. All you need is a basic knowledge of the language you want to study.', 'OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING', 'The Open University's proven method of teaching allows you the freedom to study in your own home in your own time. We supply study materials, a personal tutor and the opportunity to attend a residential weekend school.', 'STUDY PACKS', 'The courses are also available as packs, enabling you to study on your own without registering as a student. Please complete the coupon or ring the OU hotline today for a brochure giving complete course details.', 'Complete and send this coupon to: The Open University, PO Box 625 Milton Keynes MK1 1TY. Please send me details of your (please tick) French language courses German language courses Study Packs Name Address Postcode To save time call the hotline 01908 373077 UNIVERSITY EDUCATION & TRAINING OPEN TO ALL ADULTS'

طكتا من الامل

Peers blow hole in asylum bill

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

A HOUSE of Lords rebellion led by the unlikely figures of the Duke of Norfolk and the Bishop of Liverpool last night put a large hole in legislation by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, seeking to curb the rights of asylum seekers.

The peers voted by 143 to 124 to exempt torture victims and those who have fled from countries with a recent record of torture from the bill's "fast-track procedure" for dealing with asylum applicants.

Home Office ministers claimed that the new provision would be widely exploited by the unscrupulous to undermine the effect of the bill in dealing with bogus asylum claims.

Among the five Conservative peers who rebelled were the Duke of Norfolk, Britain's premier Roman Catholic peer, and Lord Boyd Carpenter, the father-in-law of Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister. They were joined by four bishops, 39 cross-benchers and Labour and Liberal Democrat peers. The rebellion was largely organised behind the scenes by the Liberal Democrat Lady Williams.

Home Office ministers said last night they would consider the concerns raised in the Lords. The Government may face a stiff task in overturning the defeat when the bill returns to the Commons as it only narrowly survived an earlier vote.

The Rt Rev David Sheppard, moving the successful amendment, said that torture victims were the most vulnera-

ble people in the world and most of those who applied for asylum came from India, Pakistan, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Somalia and other countries which had historical ties of empire to Britain.

He said the motive behind Mr Howard's bill was to introduce a harsh regime to deter asylum seekers from applying to Britain at all.

Asylum claims from the seven designated "white list" countries would be presumed to be unfounded and put through a procedure which would give them only 10 days to produce the necessary documents. Dr Sheppard said that was too soon to be able to produce medical evidence and was an inappropriate procedure for torture victims.

"They should be removed from the scope of this clause," he said.

The white list countries so far designated are India, Pakistan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ghana, Poland and Romania.

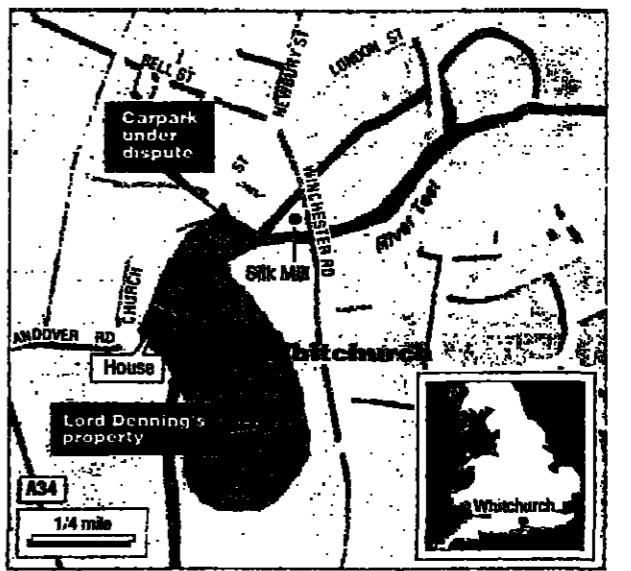
The Duke of Norfolk said he supported the amendment because more and more torture was taking place in the world. He said it was not enough just to rely on the evidence of scars: "When I was in Germany a prisoner was put outside and a bucket of water poured over him. He was left outside to freeze. That was just as much torture as ripping and bashing."

The Home Office Minister, Lord Blatch, in unsuccessfully trying to stem the rebellion, warned that the new provision would lead to large numbers trying to evade the accelerated procedures for dealing with asylum seekers.

"There are very few countries where there are allegations of brutality by the enforcement agencies but it does not mean it is widespread," she said.



Lord Denning, dwarfed by the battalions of poplars in 'the most beautiful garden in England' PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER



Denning fights for his garden

Planners find old age has not dimmed the fire of a former judge

Sarah Boseley

THE former Master of the Rolls can take his favourite walk down the prime road nowadays only if he has an arm to lean on. There are benches where he can rest, but below the battalions of poplars he planted 30 years ago. But where 97-year-old Lord Denning perceives an injustice, old age has not dimmed his fire.

As the planners who want to build a car park on a slice of his land are finding out, "This is part of my garden and I rely on the legal principle that an Englishman's house is his castle. Everything within my fence is my castle and they have no right to come on it in any way."

"It is an absolute imperative to say they will put a compulsory purchase order on it," he thundered yesterday.

Lord Denning and the village of Whitchurch, Hampshire, have a symbiotic relationship. Above the chemist's shop is a plaque claiming his birthplace, son of a draper. Village guides point out the Lawn, the derelict house he bought in 1963 which was the wartime headquarters of the Bank of England. Its greenward runs to the River Test. Lord Denning's acres extend on the far side to an ESA (environmentally sensitive area) where he grazes sheep.

"It was left in a dreadful state," he said. "I made this

the most beautiful garden in England. Look at my poplars — aren't they splendid?"

Peter Post, once clerk to the Master of the Rolls, is estate manager. "Lord Denning is a keen conservationist," he said. "He will fight tooth and nail. He is asking the local authority for chapter and verse as to the law under which they can take away an Englishman's home and estate."

Basingstoke and Deane council's planning department argues that the poplar plantation is the only undeveloped land close enough to the centre of the village to be suitable for car parking. A small car park nearby needs to be replaced. Besides, the proposal would allow people greater access — across Lord Denning's land — to the river, an idea which induces further annexity in the lord.

The proposals were published in the borough local plan last year, said Tim Marsh, senior planning officer, but there was no thunderbolt from his lordship until the detailed plans were published in January. "He didn't comment, so we could only assume he was willing to have it developed as a car park."

A compromise has been formulated. Basingstoke will not slap a compulsory purchase order on the Denning half-acre until it is forced to use the other car park to build affordable housing, which is unlikely for some years.

Behind it lurks the question of Lord Denning's continued longevity, but assumptions on this score may be foolish. "I was a seven month baby," he chuckled. "I was so small I could be put in a pint pot. But I've managed to live for 97 years." And he shows every sign of wanting to carry on for many more.

Syrian leader's snub snuffs US peace mission

David Hirst in Beirut and Derek Brown in Jerusalem

PRESIDENT Hafez al-Assad of Syria delivered yesterday what appeared to be a monumental snub to Warren Christopher, the United States secretary of state, as he pursued his apparently bordering mission to end the Israeli-Palestinian war in Lebanon.

Mr Christopher arrived in Damascus in the afternoon on the latest stage of his shuttle diplomacy only to be told by Farouk al-Shara, the foreign minister, that Mr Assad was not available to receive him. He left the Syrian capital after two-and-a-half hours and flew to Tel Aviv.

Nicholas Burns, the state department spokesman, said Mr Christopher had talked to Mr al-Shara during his journey from the airport to Damascus before Mr Assad's snub. They had discussed Israel's latest ideas on how to end the confrontation in Lebanon.

"He had a good conversation with Shara. He passed on some ideas," Mr Burns said.

Israel's main demand for calling off its bombardment is that Syria guarantees a pledge by Hizbullah guerrillas to permanently end their Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister, speaking before news of Mr Christopher's aborted mission, said Israel was demanding a written agreement — and not merely an extension of the verbal undertaking in 1993 to avoid civilian targets.

The understanding ended Israel's last big blitz on Lebanon.

Mr Peres has put all his trust in Washington's ability to negotiate a way out of the crisis.

In an interview in yesterday's Ma'ariv daily newspaper, he said of his latest telephone conversation with President Bill Clinton: "He was simply outstanding. Just outstanding. He expressed support and understanding."

"I told him that what is happening is part of the [May 29 Israeli election campaign] — but not for me, against me."

They want to depose us. He was very positive."

The Syrian rebuttal abruptly ended Israel's hopes that the US could deliver a ceasefire before last night's start of Independence Day celebrations. Mr Christopher had come from Jerusalem, where he had been discussing Mr Assad's views on the US peace plan with Mr Peres.

It was Mr Christopher's third visit to Damascus since he began his mission. He spent five hours with Mr Assad on Monday, who turned a deaf ear to an Israeli proposal for an immediate truce, pending the conclusion of a written agreement for an enduring ceasefire.

The snub reflected Syria's determination to exploit to the full what it sees as the failure of Israel's military campaign in Lebanon.

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Teachers relieved of 'violent' boy

John Carvel
Education Editor

TEACHERS at Glaisdale school in Nottingham will be asked today to lift their strike threat after a deal last night allowing them to avoid contact with Richard Wilding, the allegedly violent 13-year-old whom they tried to have expelled.

The boy's parents agreed with David Higgins, the head teacher, and Nottinghamshire education authority, on a regime to let the boy stay on the school roll but segregated from other pupils for the time being.

For five half-days a week he would be taught at the school by Mr Higgins or a teacher brought in from a special unit. For two half-days he would be taught at home, and for three half-days he would go to a pupil referral unit — one of the "sin bins" set up to rehabilitate disruptive pupils.

Bilary Freeman, the solicitor representing the boy's parents, said negotiations with the head and local authority had been constructive and the arrangement would lead to Richard's reintegration at Glaisdale. The arrangements will be reviewed monthly.

It was still unclear last night whether the deal would satisfy 20 teachers in the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers who threatened to strike indefinitely from Friday unless the boy was removed. It would have been the first teachers' strike over discipline for 10 years.

They have complained that Richard was involved in more than 30 incidents and suspended four times since November. He was permanently excluded in February for threatening behaviour, disobedience and disruption, but the expulsion order was overturned by an appeals panel after Rita Wilding, his mother, said the complaints were exaggerated and did not justify his removal.

Nigel de Gruchy, the association's general secretary, said the boy's remaining on the school roll was bound to give his members cause for concern, but would not comment on the prospects for strike action until they had had time to study it.

"At the moment it's not very promising... But I don't want to prejudice what our members might decide to do either way," he said.

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A spokesman for the education authority said teachers need no longer regard Richard's presence as a health and safety risk, since they would not teach him.

The 18 Glaisdale teachers belonging to other unions had earlier indicated they could live with the boy remaining at the school if they did not have to teach him.

Fred Riddell, chairman of the education authority, said he hoped Richard would respond positively and be "fully reintegrated... in time".

The authority would not disclose the cost of the regime, thought to include £100 a day for a specialist supply teacher. The school would be meeting its legal responsibility to Richard, and the cost would be met from the council's special needs budget.

Philip Wilding, the boy's father, said: "We are quite happy with the arrangement. It is now up to the union — if it is unacceptable to them then it is tough luck."

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John, the European Union isn't working. Moreover, if we have to break the law to force a fair deal then that is further evidence that we have a Europe of bureaucrats and bent rules. Today it is British beef that demonstrates the Euro-shambles of Brussels.

John Biffen page 9



Miss A describes alleged attack at 'castle' belonging to millionaire businessman and chairman of Blackpool FC

Oyston denies raping models



David Ward

A FORMER teenage model claimed yesterday that she lost her virginity during a rape attack by the millionaire businessman, Owen Oyston, at his 'castle' in north Lancashire.

"I told him not to do it to me. I told him not to have sex with me," said the woman, now aged 25 and married, on the first day of a trial at Liverpool crown court. "He kept saying 'I could learn you a few things'."

Mr Oyston, aged 62, of Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster, has denied raping Miss A and raping and indecently assaulting Miss B.

Miss A, who said she was aged either 17 or 18 at the time, said she had been introduced to Mr Oyston, chair-

man of Blackpool Football Club, by Peter Martin, the boss of the Manchester modelling agency with which she and Miss B were registered. She described Mr Oyston as "quite sleazy".

She told the jury of eight women and four men that she was driven one evening to Mr Oyston's home but did not know where she was going or why.

She arrived in the dark at about midnight and Mr Oyston opened the front door. "He said 'Come inside, I'd like to show you round the house', I was scared."

After seeing the entrance hall and the dining room, she was taken upstairs to the main bedroom where there was a four-poster bed with drapes. She asked if she could go to the bathroom. "I was petrified. I was in the middle of nowhere with a man that I

hardly knew," she told Helen Grindrod QC, prosecuting.

When she returned from the bathroom after 10 minutes, Mr Oyston was sitting on the bed. "He had his shirt on, no trousers and no underwear," she said, adding that she had obeyed his instruction to sit next to him.

"Why?" asked Ms Grindrod. "Because I was scared, young and frightened. He told me to remove my underwear."

She removed her knickers. "I had a dress and jacket on. He then laid down next to me, leaned over and pinned his hands across my chest. I didn't want him to do anything. I said nothing."

"He climbed on top of me and tried to insert his penis. He just said 'Shut up and do as you are told'. I was a virgin. He was going up and down on me and breathing

heavily. Eventually I struggled and pushed him away. He said I was being stupid. I then got up and put my knickers back on."

She was taken back to the house in south Manchester where she lived, and took a shower and a sleeping tablet. Asked about her state of mind, she said: "In absolute turmoil. Disgusted with myself." She told no one of the alleged rape and stayed on the books of the modelling agency because her parents in Grimsby were pressuring her to do well in her career.

She said Mr Oyston had given her £200 and £700 on two separate occasions. She had met him while on modelling engagements in London and had had dinner with him, his secretary, and the late Robert Maxwell.

"Mr Oyston tried to come up to my [hotel] room but I

wouldn't allow him to come in."

Ms Grindrod said there was a suggestion that she had had a "consensual relationship" with Mr Oyston over a period of time. "I disagree," replied Miss A, six feet tall and with cropped blonde hair.

Throughout her evidence, Mr Oyston, in a dark blue suit and a Blackpool FC tie, took notes from his seat in the dock.

Ms Grindrod described how Miss B sat in the back of Mr Martin's car during a journey to Cloughton Hall. Mr Oyston unzipped his flies and forced her to have oral sex with him.

When they reached his home, Mr Oyston is alleged to have taken Miss B to the time of the alleged offences, and a third girl, Miss C, into his bedroom. Ms Grindrod said Miss B sat on a chair while Miss C went into the

bathroom and undressed. She came out, got into bed, and had sex with Mr Oyston.

The court heard that Mr Oyston then ordered Miss B to get her clothes off and get into bed. She did as she was told and Mr Oyston had sex with her while Miss C was still in bed. "She lay still and unresponsive, making it clear that she was not consenting," said Ms Grindrod.

Ms B also stayed on with the modelling agency. "Why?" asked Ms Grindrod. "Her age, the shame, the difficulty of explaining to her parents, the fear that she would not be believed against the word of Mr Oyston."

She added that when Mr Oyston was asked about the allegations, he denied rape and said the back of the car was too cramped for indecent assault to take place.

The trial continues today.

Sack racist, says student union

Gary Younge

STUDENTS at Edinburgh University have called for the sacking of a psychology lecturer who claims black people are less intelligent than whites, and has defined himself as a "scientific racist".

The university's student union executive unanimously backed calls for Christopher Brand, whose book *The g Factor* was recently withdrawn by publishers, "to be removed permanently from his teaching responsibilities". Their stance was supported by a two-thirds majority at a full meeting of students last night.

Union vice-president Catherine Bromley said: "It is time for us to take a strong and resolved stance on this issue. What remains paramount is that the needs and desires of the students are met and their confidence restored."

The furore over the book erupted 10 days ago when Mr Brand told the press he was "proud to be racist in a scientific sense". It is a scientific fact that black Americans are less intelligent than white Americans.

He went on to suggest that single mothers should be persuaded to mate with higher IQ males to widen the gene pool of their offspring with some intelligent forbears. "They should be encouraged to have sex with higher IQ boys. We could teach these girls that it would be highly advantageous."

Students have been boycotting Mr Brand's lectures and last week, in a secret ballot of class members, 90 per cent voted for him to be removed from his teaching responsibilities.

"No caveat can prevent current and future students being compromised by the presence of a lecturer who publicly admits to being a 'scientific racist'," says the union motion. It demands an assurance from the university that any student who does not wish to attend Mr Brand's lectures will not be penalised.

The New York-based publishers, John Wiley & Sons, last week decided not to publish the book.

"The management does not want to be associated with a book that makes assertions that we find repellent," a company spokeswoman said.

In private, administrators at Edinburgh university are said to be deeply embarrassed by the row. But in public the university has stood by Mr Brand, refusing to take any disciplinary action and insisting that intellectual freedom should not be threatened. "University staff are free to express their views as long as they remain within the law," a spokesman said.

Two-year-olds sent to school 'like animals'

John Carvel Education Editor

A SURGE in the number of two-year-olds at independent prep schools yesterday prompted a leading headmistress to warn that children were being treated "like young animals", staying with their mothers only as long as they were biologically dependent.

"Women these days want to be married and have children, but they also want to carry on their careers," said Paddy Holmes, head of Ditcham Park School in Petersfield, Hampshire, and chairwoman of the Independent Schools Association.

"For some, a prep school is the only alternative to a nanny. It works well socially and educationally, but we may live to reap the dividends in social terms of children separated from their parents from the age of two."

Mrs Holmes was commenting on a survey by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) showing there are 4,584 two-year-olds at prep school this year, an increase of 27 per cent over 1995. A slight rise in the total of pupils of all ages in private education was entirely accounted for by the boom in places for children under six.

"We are really beginning as a nation to produce children treated in many ways more like young animals, staying with their mothers only as long as they are biologically dependent," she said.

Research done over many years showed the younger children were taken away from their mothers the more

likely they were to have problems later. The best organised nursery schools could help overcome any damage caused to children's future moral and emotional health.

"But some children even in nappies are now going to school and losing that bond because both parents are working. As a nation we won't really know the results of that for many years, but it is something we ought to be a little more conscious of."

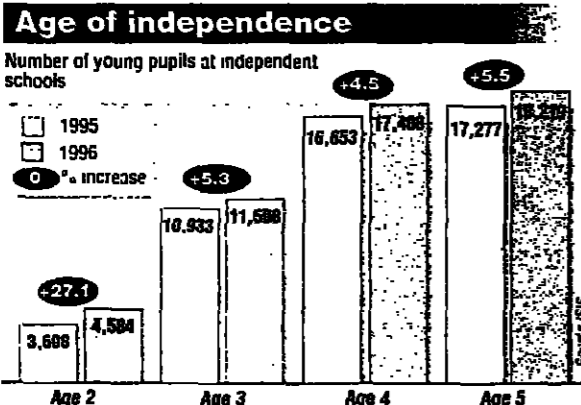
Mrs Holmes said her own school took day pupils aged four to 16, but she defended others which set an entry age of two. "We do it because we think we can do it better than anyone else. But we still question whether it is the best thing." She would have strong reservations about accepting children aged two.

The 4,584 two-year-olds were all day pupils, and the Isis figures - covering 80 per cent of fee-paying pupils - showed there were only about 500 boarders under eight.

Other head teachers at the launch of the Isis survey said the growth in the number of primary age children at independent schools demonstrated parents' dissatisfaction with the state sector, particularly over class sizes.

More than a million primary school children in state schools are taught in classes of more than 30.

David Woodhead, the Isis director, said numbers of pupils at its member schools rose by almost 5,000 to 462,443, in spite of a further slight decline in boarding. This was nearly 8 per cent of British schoolchildren and marked the first increase since 1991 in numbers at private school.



School fortifies its dinners by buying bread and butter

Witek Chaudhary

ASCHOOL is buying bread and butter to supplement meagre school dinners.

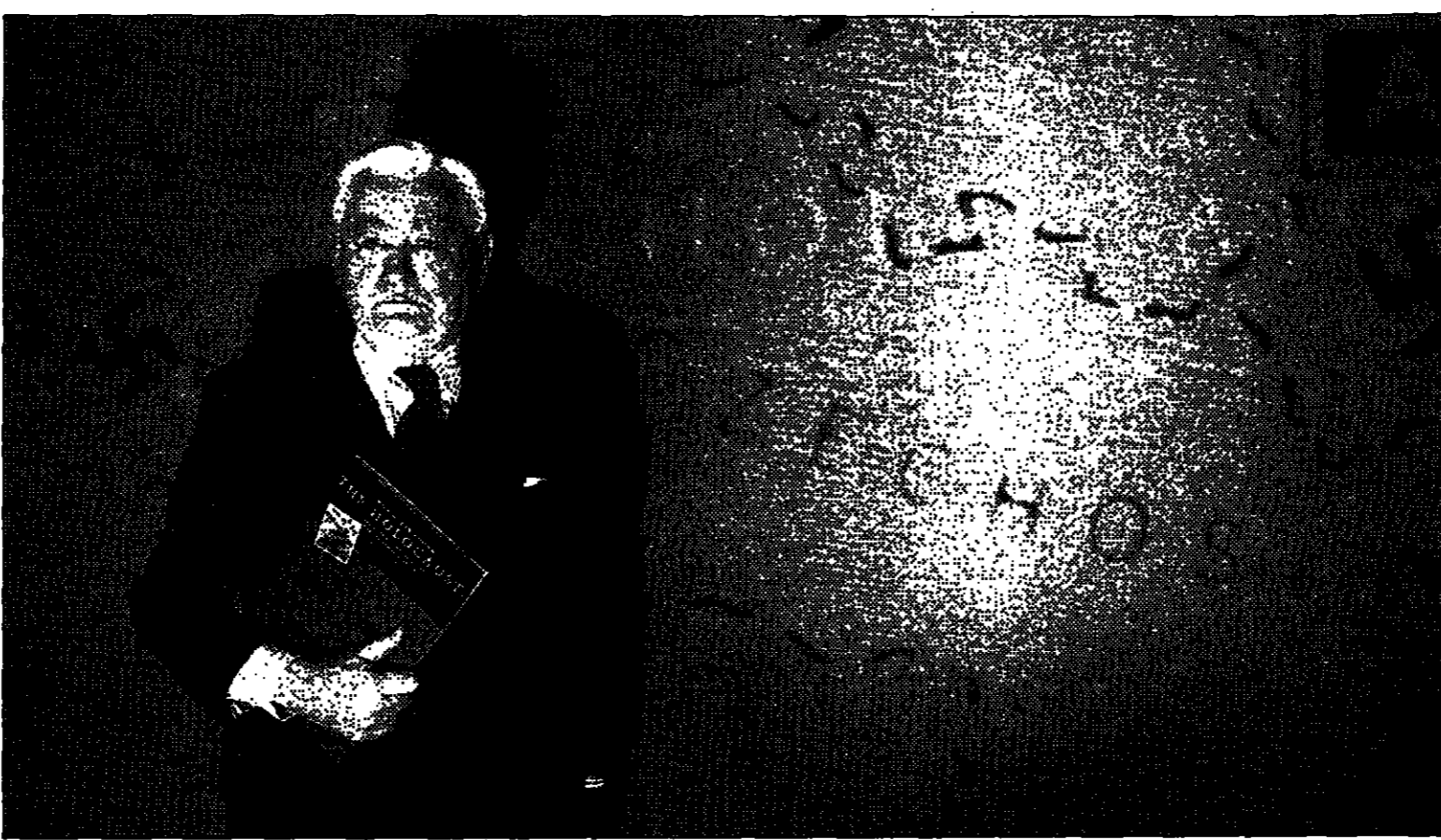
Lionel Gent, headmaster of Polytan school, Southampton, for children with special needs, acted after staff and parents complained many pupils were going hungry.

The meals, costing £1.10 each, are supplied by Hampshire Caterers and consist of salad, a hot fish and dessert.

Mr Gent said: "Most days there is simply not enough on the plates. Bigger schools

have a cafeteria system so children can pay for what they want but at small schools like ours children get set dinners... it is all about budgets and the bigger youngsters are missing out."

Hampshire county council denied that portions were too small. "We provide two different sizes of meals - for children at primary school and high schools. At this particular school both types are provided because they have primary and high school aged children." The school had said it was happy with the new portions.



Lord Bramall, chairman of trustees: Project within museum's remit as an objective historical account

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Holocaust given permanent exhibition site

David Fairhall

THE Imperial War Museum is to mark the millennium by opening a permanent Holocaust exhibition in south London.

The museum's director, Robert Crawford, said yesterday that the £13 million plans would meet a clear demand from schools which now teach the history of Nazi Germany's

slaughter of 6 million Jews as part of the national curriculum. The exhibition would fill a gap in the museum's coverage of 20th century war and address important moral questions. Ordinary men and women had taken part in the Holocaust or turned a blind eye. People might now be prompted to ask: "How would I have responded in such a situation?"

Asked if the exhibition

would make any reference to modern examples of "ethnic cleansing", Mr Crawford disclosed that the museum had originally intended to include the story of the Holocaust in a display covering other instances of genocide.

But it was decided this would be unmanageable. Instead, there will be a smaller, adjacent exhibition on "total war" dealing with the effect on civilians.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps, said the exhibition was "late, but not too late". It would help to "inculcate" future generations against racism.

The former archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie, who as a young soldier reached Belsen just after the camp was liberated, recalled that when asked if there was such a thing as a just war, he had often

replied: "A war that closed down Belsen was a war worth fighting."

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, chairman of the museum's trustees, said the project was completely within their remit. It was an objective historical account.

Provided the money can be raised, in part through a bid for heritage lottery funds, it is planned to open the exhibition in 1999.

MP accuses Blair press aide

David Pallister

TONY Blair's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, was accused in the High Court yesterday of orchestrating a false and misleading story about the Tory MP Rupert Allason four years ago when he was political editor of the Daily Mirror.

Mr Allason, who is demanding damages for malicious falsehood, claimed that Mr Campbell and two journalist colleagues concocted and then reported an early day motion in the Commons that attacked the MP. Launching his 24th civil litigation - 23 won, one drawn, by his own

account - Mr Allason was as usual presenting his own case.

He maintained that the story was the culmination of a campaign of animosity against him after he had criticised Robert Maxwell, the Mirror's former owner, who died in 1991.

In response to a 1992 attack on Mr Maxwell by Mr Allason, a Mirror editorial accused him of cowardly and dishonourable behaviour.

Mr Allason sued and won £200,000 damages and an apology on November 16 1992.

On November 20 the Mirror published a one paragraph story based on an early day motion which said that Mr Al-

lason "was challenged by 50 MPs last night to demonstrate his concern for Maxwell pensioners by giving them his estimated £250,000 libel damages. Mr Allason won the money from the Daily Mirror over articles concerning Robert Maxwell."

The story, Mr Allason said, was "untrue in almost every respect".

Besides the wrong damages figure, Mr Allason discovered that only seven MPs had signed and that on the evening of publication the early day motion had not even been tabled.

At first, Mr Allason said he was prepared to accept an apology and correction, and a

letter from Mr Campbell giving assurances that he had not been behind the attack.

But he was told by a Labour MP that Mirror journalists in the lobby had set the story up. Mr Allason chose yesterday not to name the MP because the conversation between them was inadmissible hearsay.

But he added: "The first defendant [Mr Campbell] is a very powerful figure in the Labour Party and is somewhat feared by Labour members of parliament."

The Mirror says Mr Allason had agreed to drop his complaint in return for the apology and Mr Campbell's letter.

The case continues.

Eternal youthfulness endears Cliff to female heart

Gary Younge



HE IS the same age as Union leader Jimmy Knapp, dresses like the man from C&A, and has not had sex in 36 years. Meet women's top choice for an ideal lover - Sir Cliff Richard (left).

The 55-year-old Peter Pan of pop is also the man most women want to marry, ac-

ording to a poll to be published in *Sella* magazine this week.

Sir Cliff, who is set to play Heatcliff in the musical adaptation of *Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights* in September, breaks most hearts in the 44-55 age bracket, where a third wanted to be his real-life living doll. Across the whole 15-65 age range he enjoys the affections of 20

per cent. In second place as a lover, and in top place for the young, was film star Hugh Grant, with 15 per cent of all age ranges voting for him.

Not surprisingly, given recent very public indiscretions, Grant does not go down as such a popular choice for a husband, slipping to 11 per cent. In third place behind comedian Robbie Coltrane.

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I was taken aback when a twin-set and pearls acolyte asked me if I had seen Ricki's drag queen show. Interpreting my silence as disapproval the acolyte leapt down my throat: "Oh God, Imogen, how not nineties! It's absolutely brilliant. It's like Dame Edna, Mrs Doubtfire, Priscilla and The Crying Game all rolled into one."

Imogen Stubbs G2 page 4

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صوتك من الامل

Sack racist, says student union

Sack racist, says student union

Council heads off RCN debate with 'policy' ban for life

David Brindle on reaction to outcry



Delegates to the RCN congress in Bournemouth, which today debates whether a convicted criminal can re-enter the profession

Rapists face nursing bar

CONVICTED rapists are to be effectively barred from the register of nurses under plans by the profession's regulatory body.

ways in which there might be particular crimes for which there would not normally be restoration to the register unless there were compelling reasons to do so.

who listen to the evidence and who bear their own accountability for the decision they make.

Boxing handled with kid gloves

NURSES yesterday came out heavily against the idea of banning boxing, parting company with doctors on the issue, writes David Brindle.

body was "no longer independent". The move reflects nurses' anger at the review body's endorsement over the past two years of government plans for local pay determination.

Chief justice in legal challenge

THE Lord Chief Justice could face an embarrassing legal challenge in one of his own courts as a long-simmering row over barristers' monopoly threatens to come to a head.

Division, headed by the Lord Chief Justice. The judges' opposition means that six years after the Courts and Legal Services Act, which was meant to end barristers' monopoly on higher court advocacy, CPS lawyers are still no nearer appearing in the crown courts.

Beaten buskers ponder change of tune on Tube

BUSKERS failed yesterday in their High Court battle for the legal right to entertain on the London Underground, provided they did not annoy the public.



Franco de Cristoforo blows his horn outside the High Court

LT spokeswoman Ann Lakar said later the authority was considering whether there should be a change.

'Gay sex in club' report leads judge to resign

A PART-TIME judge has resigned after allegations that he was involved in gay sex with two men at a sauna club.

Hopes fade for lone sailor missing from fire-hit yacht

POLICE were continuing their search yesterday for a missing sailor whose fire-damaged boat was found drifting off Cornwall.

said the Rumbumble's buoyancy aids, fire extinguishers, and dinghy were intact.

Newspaper report 'invaded Selina Scott's privacy'

TELEVISION presenter Selina Scott's privacy was invaded in a newspaper story about an affair she was alleged to have had 15 years ago.

The commission said it had to consider the extent to which people had put their private lives into the public domain when adjudicating on breaches of privacy.

Mail for serialising a book by Nick Lesson, the man who brought down Barings Bank, and is serving a jail sentence in Singapore for fraud.

News in brief

Extradition case opens in S Africa

THE legal battle by John Paul Grician to avoid extradition to the US finally got under way in a Johannesburg magistrate's court yesterday when his lawyers accused Interpol of "luring and tricking him" into South Africa to secure his arrest.

Judge frees woman

A JUDGE freed a sex-change woman from jail yesterday after deciding a £15,000 trial on a charge of importing would be a waste of money.

Search fails to find body

POLICE yesterday dug up the garden of a house in Wood End, Coventry, in search of the body of a teenage mother who disappeared four years ago on the way to visit her parents.

Cruelty to animals

Table showing reported cases of cruelty to animals in 1995 and 1994. Categories include Dogs, Cats, Horses & donkeys, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, and Wildlife. A sub-table lists five most common offences: Neglect (1630), Abandonment (65), Ill treatment (28), Beat/Kick (8), and Improper killing (7).

THE RSPCA yesterday called for a nationwide scheme of dog registration using microchips. Releasing its annual figures for reported cases of animal cruelty, the society pointed out that dogs remain the largest category of failing to attend to the needs of a pet.

Lottery cash for disabled

HEALTH, disability and care organisations were yesterday invited to apply for cash from a £160 million National Lottery grants scheme. Winners will be announced in the autumn.

Girl trapped in club

NEW fears about an unlicensed "rave" club were expressed yesterday after an 18-year-old girl ended up trapped inside it for 38 hours.

Evans to stay at Radio 1

CHRIS Evans (right), hailed as the saviour of Radio 1, has signed a one-year extension to his £1 million-plus contract with the BBC, it was announced yesterday.



MR WALDEN For a 10 minute to the USA? Only £1.18 with us.

Weak Commonwealth curbs unlikely to sway Lagos

Nigeria faces new action on abuses

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

NIGERIA must accept Commonwealth mission to discuss its human rights abuses or face new but low-key sanctions that could culminate in expulsion from the organisation, it was warned last night.

Commonwealth foreign ministers, meeting in London, overcame their divisions to formally caution the military regime of General Sani Abacha in Lagos, though they agreed only on limited measures that are unlikely to force it to change its mind. Nigeria has defied international outrage over last November's execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists. The Commonwealth has urged Lagos to change its mind and set up an eight-member ministerial action group to prod the regime to restore democracy

and respect human rights. Lagos refused to allow the action group to visit the country. Diplomats said the ministers — Britain's Malcolm Rifkind and colleagues from Canada, Ghana, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and Zimbabwe — were likely to agree to restrict visas for members of the Nigerian regime, their families and collaborators, and perhaps to a sporting ban. Britain has opposed calls for a ban on air links, and proposals by Jamaica, Canada and South Africa for an end to export credits. Mr Rifkind told his colleagues that any measures had to be "deliverable".

More militant members say Britain is reluctant to take economic measures because of its own investments in Nigeria, while the Foreign Office has told Washington it opposes an assets freeze as long as the US continues to buy Nigerian oil — the

regime's main source of foreign currency.

British officials say privately that many Commonwealth members with poor human rights records are reluctant to move too strongly against Nigeria, for fear they may face similar censure.

"There was general agreement that action has to be taken," said one Commonwealth official. "The Commonwealth can't stand still, its credibility is at stake."

Despite their weakness, the new sanctions could be upgraded to culminate in eventual expulsion at the Edinburgh summit next year.

Don McKinnon, the New Zealand foreign minister, said yesterday: "The Nigerian regime has no interest at all in the Commonwealth, or membership of the Commonwealth, or the ability to travel dialogue with the Commonwealth. That makes their future position in the Commonwealth very difficult."

Silicon city creaks under the strain of its success

Explosive growth threatens Bangalore's rise to pre-eminence in India's software industry, writes Suzanne Goldenberg

THEY say they can see the future unfold at Electronic City — not in the characters that blink on a thousand screens, but in the fields that slowly vanish beneath layers of concrete.

Popularly known as India's silicon valley, the purpose-built industrial park is at the forefront of a hi-tech boom that has made the country the second largest exporter of computer software after the United States. Last year sales abroad leapt 60 per cent to 24,500 million rupees (£480 million).

Bangalore has become the Indian destination of choice for multinationals, especially hi-tech giants such as Texas Instruments, Motorola and Hewlett Packard, but also niche firms like HealthScribe India Pvt — which survives by virtue of the Internet, the time difference between the US and India, and private medical care.

HealthScribe is the brainchild of Akasha Ellis and Karan Kaur Khalsa, both the children of American converts to Sikhism. The couple train operators to transcribe medical notes dictated by doctors in the US and sent to India as voice mail at the end of the working day. Surrounded by books on anatomy and medical dictionaries, the operators then send the rambling mutterings back as complete medical records, enabling the doctors to submit a speedy claim to insurance companies.

In July, the couple plan to take on more than 100 trainees, and admit they are overwhelmed by the speed with which the business has grown since August 1994. They arrived in Bangalore soon after India eased the entry for foreign firms into the software industry. "Once it opened up we came running," Mr Ellis said.

The problem is, so did everyone else. The Bangalore City Corporation estimates that in the past five years the city has nearly doubled in population, to 7.5 million people.

Town planners never envisaged that Bangalore's narrow arterial roads would carry more than 650,000 vehicles a day. The city has yet to take on more transport employees, relying on 300 traffic policemen, and 6,000 sweepers to keep the roads clear — along with a contingent of senior citizens who volunteer as traffic wardens. The small airport designed for 700 people now hosts 6,000 passengers a day.

And when the foreigners moved in, local people moved out, unable to keep up with the escalation in property prices caused by speculators. The city is running out of electricity and water, with power supplies at least 25 per cent less than is needed. Officially, the lights are out in

the 1980s, when Indian firms took flight from the prohibitive costs of Bombay and New Delhi. Bangalore offered relatively good infrastructure, a huge pool of highly skilled, English-speaking labour — the result of New Delhi's decision decades ago to concentrate telecom and defence research there.

Until the boom years, Bangalore was a sleepy southern town, a retirement destination for civil servants and the well-to-do. But its tranquility has given way to rapidly growing industry where the average employee is single, aged 29 and highly paid.

Cosmopolitan Bangalore has become a new test market. It was the first city to have an outlet for Kentucky Fried Chicken and Littlewoods opened a compact three-storey department store last month.

But despite its evident prosperity, industry sources fear that the city may become a software sweatshop, churning out the designs of other firms, rather than exploiting engineering talent.

Mr Ellis denies that he and other foreign firms are taking advantage of cheap Indian labour.

"We are giving an education, we pay for the education, we transport them, we feed them and we give them a better salary than they could get anywhere. And they get a chance to learn about technology."

While city authorities promise conditions will improve — there are plans for new power stations and an industrial park with guaranteed electricity 40 miles away — it will take time to see changes.

Complaining of spiralling wage costs as well as lack of amenities, large companies are already planning their flight to other mid-sized cities — Mangalore and Hyderabad in the south, Pune in the west — the next frontiers of the silicon revolution. After the collapse of a guest house at the weekend in which 17 people died — including two Britons — Indian authorities have stepped up a campaign against illegal boarding houses in New Delhi, a senior police official said yesterday. "The owners are supposed to have licences but only 25 to 30 per cent have them," the official, Brijesh Gupta, said. — Reuter.

'We should have been able to make plans to sustain the inflow of people. The city can't take it.'



Watchful... Shimon Peres, encircled by bodyguards, one with video camera, at a Memorial Day event in Jerusalem yesterday PHOTOGRAPH BY JEROME DELA

'Strong man' Peres fights his last battle

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

FIVE weeks from today, Israel will hold a general election which will have a profound impact on regional peace moves.

For Shimon Peres, the prime minister, the poll is a matter of political life or death. At 73, the perennial loser of Israeli politics has possibly his last chance to give substance to his vision of a new Middle East order with Israel at its centre.

However, Mr Peres is defending a perilously narrow lead in the opinion polls, by projecting himself not as a visionary of peace, but as a military strong man.

The electoral impact of the crisis in Lebanon will be measurable only when the terms of the inevitable truce are made clear. But the signs are not good for Mr Peres.

Less than two months ago, he looked unassailable. The assassination of his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, had galvanised support for Mr Peres.

Towards the end of February, the ruling Labour party had a comfortable lead over the nationalist opposition Likud. Mr Peres had a 15-20 per cent point lead over the Likud leader, Binyamin Netanyahu, as the country's choice for prime minister.

In the May 29 general election, Israelis will for the first time choose a prime minister as well as a party. Whoever wins, regardless of his party's performance, will be assured of the top job for four years.

Mr Peres's stock was probably at its height in early January, when Israeli agents organised the assassination of the country's most wanted man, the Islamist bomb-maker Yehya Ayyash. That was, with hindsight, a dreadful miscalculation. In late February and early March, the Islamist suicide bombers struck back, in Jerusalem, in Ashkelon, in Jerusalem again, and finally in Tel Aviv. In eight days, 62 lives were lost, and Mr Peres's lead evaporated.

The subsequent repression in Israeli-occupied Palestinian areas, and the recruitment of the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, as Israel's agent in the drive

against the Islamists in the autonomous enclaves of Gaza and the West Bank, went some way to restoring public confidence.

But still Mr Peres was seen as an unsafe pair of hands in the main issue of this and every Israeli election: security.

That is why Lebanon was an inviting target for political and military intervention.

The intervention was not unprovoked. After a lull coinciding with inconclusive Israeli-Syria talks in the United States, Hizbullah guerrillas markedly stepped up attacks on Israeli and allied mercenary forces in south Lebanon in February and March.

But the April 9 volley of Katyusha rockets which sparked Israel's punitive action was also not without cause: in the days before the attack on Galilee, three Lebanese civilians had died, two of them in Israeli shelling.

The Katyushas gave Mr Peres a chance to prove he was not shy of tough military action, and he seized it with vigour.

Operation Grapes of Wrath was always popular, even after it became clear that it had failed. The images of so-called pinpoint strikes with smart weapons were just as powerful as they had been during Desert Storm more than five years earlier. The winding trails of refugees, the

US alone does not condemn raids

THE United States was the only country to vote against a resolution at the United Nations Human Rights Commission yesterday deploring Israel's attacks on civilians in southern Lebanon and calling for a halt to air raids.

The Egyptian resolution was passed by 50 votes to one, with two abstentions, by the forum in Geneva. Britain was among US allies voting in favour.

The vote came as Israeli planes rocketed two south Lebanese villages and artillery pounded the south for the 13th day. — Reuter.

peremptory evacuation orders for scores of villages, caused little dissent.

Even as the Katyushas continued to slam into Galilee, coverage in Israel concentrated on the stoic response of border communities under fire. Thousands fled, but unlike their counterparts in Lebanon, they had government help to do so. Those who remained had bomb shelters.

Even last Thursday's massacre at Qana, when Israeli shells killed 102 refugees in a United Nations base, has not shaken the consensus that Operation Grapes of Wrath was and remains a legitimate way to defend Israel.

The irony is that the prospect of peace could be more damaging to Mr Peres than the option of war.

Before Qana, the government had been making what amounted to a call for the unconditional surrender of Hizbullah, and Lebanon's and Syria's acceptance of Israel's occupation of south Lebanon.

The terms of the ceasefire will be less triumphant. The restoration of an uneasy calm in Lebanon is not likely to win many votes on May 29.

TV quirk fosters outpost of Mexican culture

Residents of the isolated community of Tortel in Chile's far south even talk in a foreign accent thanks to satellite broadcasts from a continent away, Phil Gunson in Mexico City writes

IN THE far south of Chile, 25 miles from the nearest highway, lies a tiny village where the children speak Mexican-accented Spanish and football fans follow the Mexican team Necaxa.

No one is quite sure how it happened, but the 400 inhabitants of Tortel, some 1,500 miles south of Santiago, have for years been receiving a rogue Mexican television signal from the Solidarity satellite — in an area where the Andes mountain chain blocks all but the faintest crackle from Chile's own channels.

"Down here you feel so isolated," one inhabitant told reporters from the newspaper El Mercurio. "that instead of shadows we have echoes."

Access to Tortel is solely by boat. The heavy rainfall washes concrete road surfaces away, so the only roads are made of wood.

Electricity was installed just a few years ago and with it came TV programmes from the other end of the continent, modifying the children's accents and substituting Mexican idioms for local ones.

In Chile a *torta* is a cake. But in Tortel, when a four-year-old asks for a "ham torta" his parents know just what he wants. Mexicans —

for whom a cake is a *pastel* — use *torta* for a sandwich.

The Tortelinos, as the inhabitants of this remote community are known, would be hard pressed to tell you how Chilean football heroes Colo-Colo are doing in the league. But thanks to Televisa they are bang up to date on results in the Mexican play-offs.

As it happens, some of the top Mexican teams have Chilean players, and although Necaxa's Ivo Basay may not be aware of it, there are some dedicated fans back home who follow his every touch of the ball in what the computer buffs call "real time".

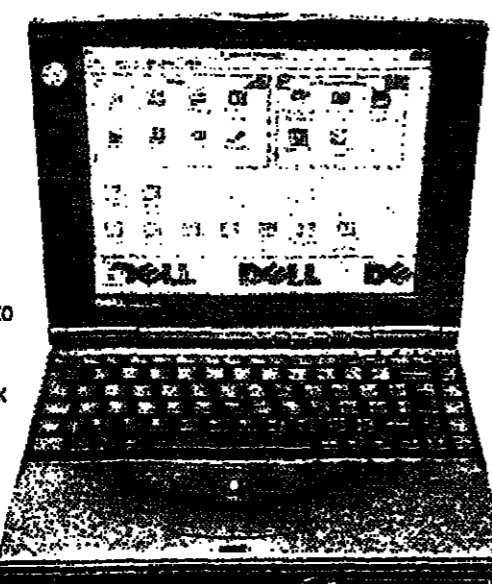
With all the children watching the "Channel of the Stars", Tortel's librarian, Iris Herrera, was getting bored "because no one was interested in reading".

Nowadays the signal is not quite so clear, she says, so the 73 children in the local school are less distracted from their homework.

Televisa, meanwhile, which lost its long-standing monopoly of the Mexican airwaves several years ago, may derive a certain satisfaction from knowing that one community — albeit a rather small and distant one — still has no choice of viewing.

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صحنه من الراحل

Wary traders draw line in the swamp

In the last of a series on Sino-Russian relations, James Meek in Vladivostok looks at a new demarcation of the frontier and finds locals afraid that if they give an inch, Beijing will take a mile

TATIYANA is a trader who has shopped all over and in the end decided the shops next door were best. "I went to Turkey, Poland, but that takes an awful lot of time. China's very convenient. I've been there 30 times, once a month."

It takes a little over six hours by bus for Tatiana to get from Vladivostok to the bustling bazaar of China's north-eastern province of Jilin. No visa is needed. She shops for cheap clothes and sells them every weekend at the Chinese Market in the Russian port, earning incomparably more than she used to working 70 hours a week as a senior gynaecologist. She is delighted with the open border, admires the Chi-

nese and wishes Russia built such good roads. But when it comes to Moscow's agreement with Beijing to give China a few acres of swampland, a deal endorsed by President Boris Yeltsin, she is as indignant and stubborn as any other Russian Far Easters. "What belongs to us shouldn't be given away to anyone," she said. "The border posts shouldn't be moved one single centimetre."

It is a problem for the people of the Maritime Territory too, as they struggle to reconcile their old suspicions of their neighbour with the need to jump on the Pacific Rim bandwagon. East Asian economies leave Russia even further behind. After lurid Yellow Peril tales in the Moscow press of a Vladivostok overrun with illegal Chinese immigrants, the Chinese Market is a let-down: a few rows of tarpaulin-covered stalls in a hollow between snow-streaked hummocks and apartment blocks, where Chinese and Russian traders compete to sell the same low quality clothes and electrical goods from Jilin. Chinese trader Li, huddling in his thin leather jacket

against the wind and sleet, explained that it was an article of faith among Russians that Chinese goods were shoddy, so the Chinese did not bother offering anything well-made. "If you tried to import a leather jacket worth \$500, they'd think you were cheating them," he said. "It's only worthwhile bringing in \$200 jackets. They don't understand that the \$300 Reebok trainers you can buy in Moscow are probably made in China."



Soviet Union in 1991 just before the latter disintegrated, the demarcation of the Russian-Chinese border now being completed will see this land returned to China. Hostility to the handover is virtually universal in the Maritime Territory. Quoting from a report by an obscure group of patriotic Moscow an-

alysts, which talks of the balance of "white" and "yellow" races in Asia, Mr Nazdratenko claims the new land would enable the Chinese to build a port with access to the Sea of Japan, drawing custom away from the Trans-Siberian railway and the ports around Vladivostok. In fact, Russia and North Korea would remain in control of access to the sea and China shows every sign of wanting to use the Maritime Territory's ports. But most Maritime citizens prefer to believe the Nazdratenko version — he was elected by a huge margin last year. Historians say that the swamp contains the remains of Soviet soldiers killed in a battle with Japanese troops in the 1930s. Local Cossacks claim the land is theirs. Environmentalists say Chinese-financed development would destroy a wetland ecosystem of world importance. And a Russian general involved in demarcation work resigned

in protest at the handover. Beneath all these concerns lurks a deeper fear — that a tiny concession to China now would only encourage the Chinese to reclaim the whole Maritime Territory, an area larger than Belgium ceded to Moscow in 1860 when Beijing was bucking under French and British attack. Even Vladimir Stegny, who as the territory's international economic relations chief wants to see north-east China and the Russian Far East expand their economies together, said he feared an overpopulated China a decade hence would find the sparsely peopled Russian lands irresistible. "I fear ... there will be some kind of redistribution, particularly since the Chinese are paying so much attention to the modernisation of their armed forces," he said. "That's why Russia shouldn't be making even these small territorial concessions now."

World news in brief

Paraguay leader appeals for calm

PARAGUAY'S President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, whose whereabouts were unknown for several hours following a rebellion by his army chief, reappeared in public yesterday and called for calm. "I ask you to return to your homes in peace," he told a cheering crowd of thousands outside the government house. "Everything will be solved, for the good of all of us, without winners or losers," the president said. Mr Wasmosy, Paraguay's first democratically elected president in nearly 60 years, sacked General Lino Oviedo on Monday, accusing him of breaking a constitutional ban on military participation in politics. The general, who has made no secret of his ambition to be the 1998 presidential candidate for the ruling Colorado Party, reacted by retreating to his barracks with his troops and demanding the president quit instead. But the navy, air force and police backed Mr Wasmosy, joining the United States and Latin American leaders. Mr Wasmosy yesterday called Gen Oviedo's defiance an "absurd act of aggression" and signed an order stripping him of command and banning him from office for 10 years. Gen Oviedo's followers in the congress accused the president of retaliation after they last week blocked a government move to award control of two toll bridges on the Brazilian border to companies reportedly owned by Mr Wasmosy. — Reuters and AP, Asuncion.

Croatian bones of contention

PRESIDENT Franjo Tudjman wants the remains of historically prominent Croats, including the late Yugoslav communist dictator, Josip Broz Tito, and the head of Croatia's second world war fascist regime, Ante Pavelic, to be returned to their homeland. "I support the idea that the bones of every Croatian man who lived for Croatia be returned to Croatian soil," Mr Tudjman said in an interview published yesterday in the government-controlled newspaper, Vecernji List. "Why leave Pavelic out of it?" Pavelic's pro-Nazi Ustasha regime murdered tens of thousands of Serbs, Jews and Gypsies between 1941 and 1945. "[Pavelic's] idea of creating a Croatian state contained positive things, but it must be acknowledged that in the implementation of his policy he made terrible mistakes," Mr Tudjman said. He said on Monday "no more" than 40,000 people were killed under Ustasha rule. Most historians put the number slaughtered at the Jasenovac death camp alone at 80,000. — Reuters, Zagreb.

Kurds put Turkey in the dock

THE first European Court of Human Rights cases involving Kurds who allege that they have been tortured and expelled from their homes by Turkish authorities, are due to be heard in Strasbourg this week. One of the applicants, Zeki Aksoy, aged 22, has since been killed. He claimed he was beaten, given electric shocks and hung by his arms. His father blames Turkish soldiers for the death. The landmark cases, supported by the London-based Kurdish Human Rights Project, represent the first time the Turkish government has had to face such public accusations from its Kurdish population in a European forum. Ankara has long been a member of the Council of Europe, but previous cases reaching the European Court in Strasbourg have involved individuals from Turkish Communist or revolutionary parties. — Queen Botocot.

Gang suspects in murder

THE murder in Los Angeles of the Oscar-winning star of The Killers, Burt Reynolds, was the work of an Asian street gang, police believe. He was found shot dead in the driveway of his home near LA's Chinatown in February, with \$3,000 still inside his wallet. But after interviewing relatives who saw him earlier that night, police have returned to their original robbery theory. They believe he was killed by a \$6,000 Rolex watch and gold chain and jacket he wore, containing a photograph of his wife who was killed by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia in the 1970s. Both items were missing from his body. It is believed his killers, said to be members of the Oriental Longhairs gang, over-looked the wallet. — New York Daily News.

Cult leader goes on trial

POLICE officers check a car trying to enter the compound of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult at the foot of Mount Fuji in Japan, where several of the group's disciples remain. Shoko Asahara, the cult's leader, goes on trial today for allegedly masterminding last year's deadly nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway. The bearded, self-proclaimed messiah was arrested when police swooped on the Mount Fuji commune last May. Mr Asahara has spent the past 11 months in custody, and his cult — which once boasted more than 10,000 followers — has since declared bankruptcy and been ordered to fish-bone. Nerve gas producing chemicals killed 12 and made more than 5,500 others ill in the subway attack Mr Asahara allegedly masterminded last March. — AP, Tokyo.



Riding high... Aggrieved residents of Zurich's Münstergasse street fixed their bicycles to window frames yesterday after the landlord closed down a bicycle parking space to make way for a new restaurant. PHOTOGRAPH: RENE MEIER

Prodi vows to bring stability

John Hooper in Rome

THE winners of Italy's general election yesterday vowed to give their country something it has not had for half a century — a government which sees out its term of office and ensures the county's voice is heard on the international stage. Romano Prodi, who is likely to be the next prime minister, told Le Figaro: "Italy is richer than Great Britain and ought to be ashamed of not taking up its responsibilities." Professor Prodi later cited the Middle East peace process as an area in which his country's desire to become involved had been "thwarted by instability". The professor said the outcome should allow him to "form a government which will last five years". No administration has done so since the formation of the republic in 1946. Prof Prodi stressed that stability was essential if he was to take the lira back into the exchange rate mechanism of the European monetary system — a move that could put pressure on Britain. The pound left at the same time as the lira in September 1992. "The current account is in the black, as is the trade balance," Prof Prodi said. Yesterday, Rome was alive with speculation about who could form part of the first

Italian cabinet to be beholden to the left. The outgoing prime minister, Lamberto Dini has apparently been given his pick of jobs on offer. There was speculation that Antonio Di Pietro, the former star of Italy's anti-corruption campaign, could be offered the justice or interior portfolios and that Umberto Eco, the author and a noted supporter of the centre-left, might be named arts minister. Prof Prodi said there was nothing preventing him talking to Mr Di Pietro, but thought it unlikely that Italy's best-known author would accept a job. Meanwhile, Silvio Berlusconi, Prof Prodi's defeated opponent, was hinting there might be something suspicious about the election results. The centre-left won an outright majority of seats in the senate, but will need the support of orthodox Communists to pass legislation. "We are very worried by certain numbers which are coming out," Mr Berlusconi said. "A series of alarm signals are reaching us with regard to spoil votes." Speculation continued about whether Mr Berlusconi might now leave politics. The cumbersome constitutional machinery for dealing with changes of government means the centre-left will be unable to take over before the middle of next month. Nothing can happen until parliament is convened on May 9.

After the inferno, cinema paradiso

Julian Berger in Sarajevo reports on the odyssey of a group of film lovers bearing the movies Bosnians missed in the war

IT WOULD make a good subject for a low-budget art film: a group of young Europeans rattle across Bosnia's post-war landscape in a battered van, taking a small film festival from one strappal-accused cinema to another. On their way they meet a drunken projectionist, an obstinate pigeon, exhausted war veterans and a flamboyant general. But at the end of their three-week odyssey they discover a native love for the cinema that has survived diminished but undefeated. Nick Baker-Montey, a German-based British filmmaker, had the idea. He collected a diverse bunch of film lovers, including Benjamin Filipovic, one of Bosnia's leading pre-war directors, a German actress and a Dutch film technician. With funding from Channel 4 and Germany's Goethe Institute, they set off late in March in a Volkswagen van with prints of Four Weddings and A Funeral, Speed, Orlando and mixed bag of other critically acclaimed films from the past four years. "These were the films that were showing when Bosnia was at war," Mr Baker-Montey said. "The idea was to get the cinemas open and the lights on."

The first cinema they came to in Bihac had been closed for four years. Daylight flooded in through shell holes in the hall, which had become home to a pigeon. The projectors were on the point of collapse, as was the projectionist, an old man known locally as Doubles for his constant tripping over his feet. The first few days were spent coaxing the pigeon out of the rafters, covering the shell holes and finding someone else to run the projectors. They had hardly got the cinema running when a freak blizzard cut off the electricity for the last two days of their stay. Not even the region's army commander, General Atif Dudakovic (favourite film: Withering Heights), could get the lights back on. Instead he took advantage of the break to persuade Mr Filipovic to make a film about his unit's wartime exploits focusing on a daring action in 1994, in which he fooled the Serbs into thinking a mutiny was brewing in the Bosnian army. According to the general, the operation was inspired by the film thriller, The Eagle Has Landed. On the rest of the tour, in Zenica, Tuzla and Sarajevo the cinemas were in better shape, but there was a more

fundamental problem. Even though entrance was free, it proved hard to persuade Bosnia's war veterans and their families to leave home to spend an evening at the cinema. "The war has left many soldiers too nervous and restless to sit still in a darkened hall for hours on end. Mr Filipovic also found that most of his friends and peers had left. "They took with them in their luggage the culture of going to the cinema," he said. The war, Mr Filipovic argued, boosted videos and television but virtually killed the cinema. While Bosnian cities were being shelled, their inhabitants covered at home. A huge industry in pirated video films grew up, which will be hard to regulate. Most important, Sarajevo has become a city of rural

refugees, who have brought with them village customs and priorities. "It is a different city," said Mr Filipovic, who is reconsidering a decision to return home. But for all the gloom the festival organisers are convinced that Bosnia's pre-war passion for the cinema is showing signs of returning. As the festival draws to a close today, a hard core of about 100 filmmakers has emerged, including a group of film students that maintained their obsession for four years without facilities or equipment. "Even in Bihac, there were signs that the local cinema was coming back to life. "The day we left, they were putting up posters for another film," Mr Baker-Montey says. "So despite all the problems, it did at least have a tangible result."

Chechen aide denies death of Dudayev

David Hearst in Moscow

CONFUSION surrounded the fate of the rebel Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev last night, after one of his leading spokesmen said he had been killed in a Russian rocket attack on a Chechen village. An official statement issued on behalf of Gen Dudayev's government-in-exile said: "Dzhokhar Dudayev was killed on the night of April 21-22 near the village of Gekhi-Chu after a rocket strike." Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, a spokesman who led negotiations with the Russians in the Chechen capital Grozny last year, added: "Dudayev has been killed, of that there can be no doubt." But an hour later Gen Dudayev's personal secretary Saipudil Hasanov said his leader was "alive and working a normal regime", the latter's spokesman reported. Mr Hasanov confirmed there had been a rocket attack on Sunday night a mile south of Gekhi-Chu. He said two senior members of Mr Dudayev's circle had been killed — his military procurator, Mohammed Zheniev, and his spokesman in Moscow, Xamada Kurbanov. Neither the Russian military authorities in Chechnya, nor Konstantin Borovoi, the state deputy who keeps in close contact with Gen Dudayev, could confirm the report of his death. More details of the attack emerged last night. Gen Dudayev and his Russian wife, Irina, had gone to Mr Zheniev's house in Gekhi-Chu, planning to talk by satellite telephone to intermediaries in negotiations with President Boris Yeltsin.

As the leaders walked into a field, they were attacked by Russian warplanes. One report said Gen Dudayev had died of his wounds and would be buried in the nearby village of Shallegi. The mystery about Mr Dudayev gave a further twist to Mr Yeltsin's chaotic attempts to pacify Chechnya before he goes to the electorate on June 16. If Gen Dudayev's death is confirmed, his fighters could well come under the more radical leadership of Shamil Basayev, the Chechen guerrilla who led the first mass hostage-taking in the southern Russian town of Budyonovsk, and a recent ambush on a column of Russian troops in which more than 53 soldiers were killed. Mr Basayev, who controls the Vedeno district with his brother Shirvan, last year openly challenged Gen Dudayev's leadership, threatening to take matters into his own hands unless more funds were released to his local field commander. This is not the first time in the 16-month conflict that Gen Dudayev, a former Soviet air force general aged 52, has been reported dead. He has been the target of frequent assassination attempts. Since Grozny was recaptured by the Russian force and his headquarters were stormed, Gen Dudayev has been constantly on the move in the south-east and west of Chechnya. The Russian procurator-general has issued a warrant for his arrest. Nevertheless, Mr Yeltsin in his latest peace plan announced his intention to resume negotiations with Gen Dudayev, using intermediaries including the president of Tatarstan, Vintimir Shaimiev.

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At last, a streak of sanity
But nothing can excuse the great beef bungle

THE DISGRACEFUL mishandling of the beef crisis profoundly underlines the Conservative Party's inability to govern in the national interest.

anxiety on Brussels and the council of ministers. It allowed itself to redefine the crisis as a piece of European obstruction, and (as John Major repeated yesterday) as Labour's fault.

We are still living with the consequences of that loss of control, as the political absurdities of the past few days have so powerfully illustrated.

It is easy to be wise after the event about the Government's errors in those first crucial days. Even if one accepts that it did the best it could the first time round, the fact remains that the solutions to the difficulties which quickly followed lay in the Government's own hands.

The recent comments of some Conservatives beggar description. This is supposedly the party of free trade. But the Tory MPs who have been queuing up to call for retaliatory sanctions against Europe this week give the lie to that.

Instead, the Government quickly showed the tell-tale signs of its own inadequacy. It focused on the wrong issues. It began blaming others for the problem. It turned against Labour, against the press and, above all, against Europe.

At our home we have a team of 10 plus four night care staff who, by a system of shifts, provide 24-hour care seven days a week.

Other children have rights too

A 13-year-old's hard lesson in life and social responsibility

GLAISDALE school teachers in Nottingham should not abandon their high ground. They have serious reasons for refusing to teach Richard Wilding, the 13-year-old disruptive pupil.

Education reformers are rightly concerned by the threefold increase in excluded pupils over a three year period. Richard's is not a lonely case.

There is another Richard Wilding story as our reporter, Martin Wainwright, fairly set out yesterday. Two local shopkeepers spoke up in his support including a newspaper, who employed him as a paperboy.

Richard Wilding is the subject of a "statement of special educational needs", the result of prolonged inappropriate and unacceptable school behaviour.

Let them carry on busking

An old tradition must continue — up to certain standards

THE BUSKERS in the London underground lost a legal battle yesterday but may have won a victory. One of them failed to have his conviction overturned for "soliciting for reward" at Piccadilly underground station.

Out goes the Four Seasons in any form, preferably with a £5 on-the-spot fine. The guitarist who has learnt the chords of only one song is banned. So is anyone playing to an accompaniment tape.

More hopefully London Transport now says that the authority is reviewing the bylaws to see whether a proper licensing scheme can be drawn up. This is a cheerful new tune but it could lead to discord.

Busking has always been part of urban life, though the location has shifted. In Mayhem's London, it consisted of "going into public houses and playing and singing and dancing."



Letters to the Editor

The despair of care

LINDA Grant has experienced a tragedy I witness each day of my working life (Mother we hardly know you, April 22).

point a healthcare proxy to make decisions about future treatment is something the Alzheimer's Disease Society and many carers would welcome.

At our home we have a team of 10 plus four night care staff who, by a system of shifts, provide 24-hour care seven days a week.

Family relationships are immensely variable and it is as unwise to assume that all old people who become ill want to remain in their own homes as it is to assume that all daughters, or sons for that matter, are willing to make the huge sacrifices which caring often involves.

My belief is that none of those I care for would, should they have glimpsed their future, want their children or grandchildren to perform such tasks as are routine to those who care for them.

Above all, we must ensure that families are properly informed about what taking on caring responsibilities may mean and that, if they choose, to do so, the rest of society recognises and values their contribution.

LINDA Grant's mother sounds typical of that generation — the stay-at-home mums who combined raising children and caring for elderly relatives and neighbours with underpinning a much wider network of community support services.

In my childhood, it was my mother and women like her who cooked for pensioners' luncheon clubs, made home visits to the elderly and infirm, sewed the costumes for the drama group's concert parties, started "talking newspapers" for the blind.

At our home we have a team of 10 plus four night care staff who, by a system of shifts, provide 24-hour care seven days a week.

Where are their heires to public service? In my case, 300 miles away and preoccupied with a job. Women must have the right to work, and to properly paid work.

At our home we have a team of 10 plus four night care staff who, by a system of shifts, provide 24-hour care seven days a week.

Now in our late sixties, it is what we would want. Betty & Colin Mawby. Coppers. Farr Hall Drive, Hisswall, Wirral L64 6SF.

The wild Wilding

RICHARD Wilding is the subject of a "statement of special educational needs", the result of prolonged inappropriate and unacceptable school behaviour.



Cold porridge and hot news

SURELY the 1990 riots in our prison system were caused precisely because of the presence of televisions in the cells (Leader, April 22)?

through publicity. The media hate the idea that they are responsible for anything at all. But if the governor of Strangeways had knocked off the televisions there the day before the Trafalgar Square riots, his prison and indeed the whole system would have stayed intact.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY. Mild wet Atlantic weather is re-established. Bluebell leaves crowd around the pale primroses and starry celandines which have dominated hedgebanks.

Browned off on child benefit

GORDON Brown's article (Strife begins at 16, April 22) illustrates the difficulty Labour has in using its membership to endorse policy rather than formulate it.

Let them carry on busking

THE BUSKERS in the London underground lost a legal battle yesterday but may have won a victory. One of them failed to have his conviction overturned for "soliciting for reward" at Piccadilly underground station.

Another way to disarm Hizbullah

If Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, embarked on Operation Grapes of Wrath in order to promote his tough-guy image during an election year in Israel, he has also contributed to the election campaign of Hizbullah in Lebanon's forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Why union activists can't just dismiss their rank-and-file

AM surprised that such an incorrigible radical as Paul Foot seeks to deny rank-and-file trade-union members the chance to help determine union policies (One member, one vote and no clout, April 22).

membership is so gullible that they will be swayed by the media. I do not remember the media taking any part in the NUT debate about whether we should have a joint salary submission with teacher associations representing over 90 per cent of the profession — a joint submission which the ultra-left tried to scupper.

Where are their heires to public service? In my case, 300 miles away and preoccupied with a job. Women must have the right to work, and to properly paid work.

He argues that "decisions should be taken by trade unionists' meeting and debating as trade unionists" but ignores the fact that many of our branches are finding meetings after meeting inquorate. Others have reduced their quorum to less than 1 per cent of their membership.

Now in our late sixties, it is what we would want. Betty & Colin Mawby. Coppers. Farr Hall Drive, Hisswall, Wirral L64 6SF.

WHEN only union activists have a hold, then the union will take conference decisions which are out of step with the majority. Does Paul Foot really believe that those NUT delegates promulgating the SWF line at its recent conference represented the teachers on whose behalf they spoke?

PAUL FOOT argues that we should be aware that our

should be aware that our

Another way to disarm Hizbullah

If Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, embarked on Operation Grapes of Wrath in order to promote his tough-guy image during an election year in Israel, he has also contributed to the election campaign of Hizbullah in Lebanon's forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Israel's claim that Syria uses the Hizbullah card to fine-tune the security situation in line with its interests is true, then signing an agreement with both Syria and Hizbullah, to the exclusion of Lebanon, is an indication to both Syria and Hizbullah that playing such a card will remain effective in the future.

According to the logic governing the present diplomatic process, Syria has also to be a signatory to the agreement along with Hizbullah, at the insistence of Israel. The reason given is that Syria is a major power in the area, controls decisions in Lebanon, and is the real force, along with Iran, behind Hizbullah.

The international priority seems to be to save prime minister Peres from the mess he has put himself into and find a face-saving formula before the Israeli elections. What should be the priority is to save the real victim, Lebanon, from the brutal clumsiness of its southern neighbour and to find a sensible solution which would restore its authority over its occupied territory. Hizbullah would then be disbanded and remain as a political party in Lebanon's constitution. Nadim Shehadi, Director, Centre for Lebanese Studies, 59 Observatory Street, Oxford OX2 6EP.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY. Mild wet Atlantic weather is re-established. Bluebell leaves crowd around the pale primroses and starry celandines which have dominated hedgebanks.

They come from breeders all over the world but about one hundred have been named by Dan du Plessis and his family and these are grouped in a splendid bed beside his house. Now retired from daffodil growing and supplying bulbs worldwide, Dan still maintains and extends his collection and this year, a fragrant jonquil type with yellow petals and orange and green centre will take his name. Today he selects and picks near-perfect blooms for entry into the Daffodil Society's annual show. He knows the form and face of every variety and awaits with anticipation the emergence of new flowers which take about five years from seed. Alongside his exotic collection remnants of daffodil stands, once widely cultivated for market, survive in a bank. Clumps of dainty Brilliance, white Horace with pleasant eye centre and sturdy Cressus are at their best but Scilly Whites, Firsts and Sir Watkins are fading in the warmer weather.

Browned off on child benefit

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Let them carry on busking

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Hardly Ab Fab at Sears, page 12
Plus: Kohl's bungalow summit

Tomorrow: The loD slant on Europe

Finance Guardian

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Forte in £1bn fight back

Sir Rocco nears new funds deal

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

SIR ROCCO Forte is close to securing up to £2 billion worth of City backing to help fund a bid for part of the hotel business he lost when Granada took over his family-controlled leisure empire earlier this year.

Investment banks, together with venture capital arms of the Prudential and Citicorp. An agreement is expected to be finalised after a series of presentations to institutions over the next three weeks. Proposals are likely to include a pledge to float the private hotels group on the stock market. City sources said a number of financial options are being considered, although Sir Rocco is expected to opt for a conventional "debt to equity combination".

The aim is to give Sir Rocco enough financial firepower to bid for at least parts of the expected auction by Granada of the 84-strong Meridien hotel chain and the 18 Exclusive hotels, which include famous names such as the Hyde Park Hotel, Grosvenor House and Brown's.

Some analysts estimate that they would be worth in excess of £2 billion. Sources close to Sir Rocco's unnamed new company insist that a funding package is expected soon. Advisers helping Sir Rocco include JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, SBC Warburg, UBS and Cazenove.

Granada's financial advisers, Lazards, over the next couple of weeks. It needs to complete the sell-off to help repay nearly £4 billion worth of debt it took on to complete the £2.5 billion takeover.

Steven Evans and the group's marketing director, Richard Carrick, have also handed in their notice. Granada is understood to have badly damaged morale of long-standing Forte managers because of its decision to raise prices at its hotels and roadside restaurants. Executives who know the businesses well feel this will hit Forte's sales, particularly in the mid-market hotel business which is particularly price-sensitive.

Notebook

Brown justified in seeing red



Edited by Alex Brummer

IT IS understandable that Gordon Brown is angry at the considerable tax avoidance industry which is seeking to drum up business on the back of the assumption that new Labour will be kinder to the wealthier taxpayer than the Tories.

After all Labour will probably never forget the last election campaign when the late John Smith's budget Red Book gave Tories the ammunition to snapper Labour's chances.

This time Labour is determined not to make the same mistakes. It was particularly angered at the use by KPMG of a proposal for an investment-income surcharge which surfaced at the time of the 1992 election, but plays no part in new Labour's thinking.

Accounting firms and personal financial advisers spend much of their time dreaming up new ideas to encourage investors to churn their money, so that the firms can claim ever higher commissions and fees. The kind of material used by KPMG and others circulates at every budget, whoever is in power.

However, there is one dangerous element in the advice currently available - the encouragement to shift funds offshore to Guernsey, Jersey, Luxembourg and other such investment havens. The authorities may have no formal exchange rate policy at present but huge capital outflows overseas, which put downward pressure on sterling could have dramatic consequences for a new administration.

Export struggle

THE UK economy is reverting to type. After four years of distinctly un-British recovery, based on strong exports and a booming manufacturing sector, industrial firms are finally running out of steam and the consumer is picking up the baton.

However, there is one dangerous element in the advice currently available - the encouragement to shift funds offshore to Guernsey, Jersey, Luxembourg and other such investment havens. The authorities may have no formal exchange rate policy at present but huge capital outflows overseas, which put downward pressure on sterling could have dramatic consequences for a new administration.

Regulator dents BT's plan for £33bn merger

Andrew Higgins sees Hong Kong merger target lose overseas calls monopoly

HONGKONG Telecom, the prize Cable & Wireless asset at the heart of British Telecom's £33 billion merger hopes, yesterday lost a monopoly grip on the colony's fastest-growing international services but escaped with the core of its highly-profitable privileges intact.

Stanley Asia. "This is not a deal-breaker for BT. It could have been much worse." Cable & Wireless owns a 57 per cent stake in HK Telecom and earns the bulk of its profits from Hong Kong's dominant telecommunications company.

But the long-awaited "clarification" of HK Telecom's privileges leaves unanswered the key question of whether Beijing will bless the proposed merger.

The regulators' move prizes open data and fax transmission overseas and virtual private networks, relatively new services that currently account for only 12 per cent of HK Telecom's revenue but which are growing far faster than ordinary voice calls.

Satellite firm to launch in Latin America

Ian King

FLEXTECH, the fast-growing British cable and satellite TV programmer, yesterday announced a tie-up with media groups Sony and Time Warner to launch a satellite TV channel for Latin America.

Flextech is taking a 32.5 per cent stake in Mundo Ole, which is expected to be available to more than 10 million households in the region. It will contain a mixture of news and entertainment programmes from programme makers in Britain, Europe, the US and Australia.

But Mundo Ole will do well to compete with the News Corp venture, announced last November, which has been set up in conjunction with Mexican and Brazilian companies and which will operate an array of new satellite channels.

News Corp has joined forces with America's biggest cable operator, TCI, which itself owns half of Flextech, and which boasts a substantial presence in Latin America.

Until yesterday's announcement, it was thought the combined firepower of TCI and News Corp would deter any new entrant to the fast-growing Latin American market, where satellite is expected to emerge as the main delivery medium.

Already, Mexican broadcaster Grupo Televisa - the world's biggest maker of Spanish-language programmes - has decided not to launch its own satellite service, on the grounds that it could not compete on its own against the likes of News Corp.



We don't get many mummies in here... At these prices, I'm not surprised. £50 for half a pint? I don't care if Scottish and Newcastle has produced just 1,000 bottles based on Tutankhamun's original recipe - nobody falls for pyramid selling any more. PHOTOGRAPH: NIGEL DOBSON

BET cites main investor loyalty to thwart bid

Ian King

BET, the services group fighting a hostile £2.1 billion bid from rival Rentkil, yesterday paraded three more leading shareholders in an attempt to convince the City that opinion was moving in its favour.

The announcement came hours after Rentkil made its long-awaited move into the market, snapping up some 6.8 per cent of BET, and splashing out £140 million in the process.

Both sides will spend today and tomorrow making last ditch presentations to City institutions ahead of the bid's closing deadline on Friday.

BET, which last Friday said it was being supported by its biggest shareholder, M&G, said that three of its biggest shareholders - the Prudential, BZW Investment Management and Hermes - would all be backing it.

In an announcement timed to counter Rentkil's buying programme, BET said the pledges meant that four out of its seven biggest shareholders had now agreed to support it, representing some 17.25 per cent.

A spokesman added: "We continue to see institutions putting the case that BET is an exciting growth company."

Of BET's other big shareholders, it is thought that Standard Life will be likely to back Rentkil, although there is no indication yet how Threadneedle Asset Management and Sun Life will vote.

At the same time, BET again sought to reassure wavering shareholders, emphasising the commitment of its highly-rated chief executive, John Clark, to the company.

There have been rumours throughout the bid concerning the future of Mr Clark who, via a controversial incentive scheme, stands to pick up £5 million if BET loses.

Meanwhile, Rentkil chief executive Clive Thompson poured scorn on BET's latest comments and insisted he was still on course for victory.

Mr Thompson said it had been "fairly predictable" that M&G, Hermes and the Pru would back BET, since they had a history of backing incumbent managements in bid battles.

Asked about BET's announcement concerning Mr Clark, Mr Thompson added: "Personally, I find it astonishing that BET should feel it necessary to put out a statement that they are committed to delivering growth for shareholders. That's what we're here for."

All told, 150 million BET shares changed hands yesterday, of which nearly 130 million were bought by broker Hoare Govett on behalf of Rentkil. It was enough to send BET shares up to 30.64p. Meanwhile, Rentkil shares closed up 5.4p at 38.94p, valuing its bid for BET at nearly £1.95bn a share.

But the long-awaited "clarification" of HK Telecom's privileges leaves unanswered the key question of whether Beijing will bless the proposed merger.

The regulators' move prizes open data and fax transmission overseas and virtual private networks, relatively new services that currently account for only 12 per cent of HK Telecom's revenue but which are growing far faster than ordinary voice calls.

"They have opened the market to competition in areas of high growth but HK Telecom keeps its bread-and-butter monopoly," said Jeff Camp, a telecommunications expert at Morgan

Organised crime finds hiding place for loot on Internet

Don Atkinson in Lisbon

FRAUDSTERS and money launderers are colonising the Internet in an attempt to escape the surveillance of police and regulators around the world, a conference was told yesterday.

"Electronic money laundering will boom, traditional paths are already highly supervised," said Dr James Backhouse of the London School of Economics.

Criminal, terrorist and drug related funds will be switched into virtual money and later translated back into conventional money. One reliable money laundering route, he said, would be to set up a front

company on the Internet supposedly supplying information services; in fact, it will act as a clearing house for tainted funds. Dr Backhouse was speaking to delegates from police, judiciary and law firms around the world at the International conference on money laundering and economic crime held in Lisbon.

A critical difference, according to Dr Backhouse, separates the Internet's financial systems from conventional credit and debit cards. These leave an audit trail of transactions for the police but "e-cash removes most of these records".

At present the point at which the electronic money is turned back into hard cash could make the fraudsters vulnerable. But, said Dr Back-

house, ever more goods and services are being offered for sale on the Internet and priced in e-cash. Because of this the money need never return to the conventional banking system. In addition, new currencies created on the Internet will exist independent of central banks.

Earlier in the conference John Moscov, a senior investigator for the state of New York, warned that any "mischievous financial transaction that passed through US territory" may be pursued and prosecuted by the American authorities. With two thirds of world trade denominated in dollars, and with most of those transactions clearing through New York, the scope for American action is clearly wide. A former

fraud squad officer said security and intelligence officers in the US had found themselves with time on their hands after the end of the Cold War and were now focusing on the underworld.

Serious Fraud Office assistant director Chris Dickson launched a stinging attack on Austria, claiming its secret bank accounts hold an estimated \$140 billion (£38 billion), much of it the proceeds of crime and terror.

The Channel Islands were also criticised for their soft approach to investigating foreign tax fraud and fraud on the EU itself. Mr Dickson said the Seychelles was "a particularly brazen example" of an offshore tax haven turning a blind eye to criminal and terrorist funds.

Exhibitions group directors share £1m severance pay

THREE departing directors of the Blenheim exhibition's group shared nearly £1 million worth of severance pay, according to the company's annual report.

The biggest beneficiary was Miguel Escobar who picked up £400,103. Mr Escobar formerly ran the group's Spanish operations.

Steven Januzzi received a £288,750 pay-off for loss of office as chief-of-staff of the group's US operations. Finance director Christopher Crowcroft received a £175,000 payment. A spokeswoman was unable to say in detail why any of the directors had left the company.

The payoffs are relatively large for a company like Blenheim, which made £35.5 million pre-tax profits in the year

to December 1995. It is attempting to put behind it three troubled years of financial problems. The payoffs come just a year after the group disclosed that it had paid £543,000 in compensation to Philip Soar, its former chief executive, together with two other directors. City confidence in Blenheim was badly dented last year by the posting of four profit warnings amid signs of a collapse in its key exhibition market.

However the business is generally regarded to be in the process of being turned around by managing director Steffen Svanby. Shares were yesterday trading unchanged at 266p.

The annual report says current year trading has started well but a projected slowdown in the economies of Western Europe may have some impact on our rate of growth in the second half.

Tourist Rates - Bank Bells

Australia 1.8550	France 7.4650	Italy 2.3000	Singapore 2.0775
Austria 15.51	Germany 2.2200	Malta 0.5590	South Africa 6.50
Belgium 45.50	Greece 357.25	Netherlands 2.4675	Spain 184.50
Canada 2.0075	Hong Kong 17.48	New Zealand 2.1450	Sweden 9.9750
Cyprus 0.7040	India 51.88	Norway 5.61	Switzerland 1.75
Denmark 6.61	Ireland 4.0000	Portugal 228.75	Turkey 10.7321
Finland 7.16	Israel 4.80	Saudi Arabia 5.94	USA 1.4750

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

Iran bill sparks fears of 'extra-territorial' bullying
US sanction plans threaten UK firms

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BRITISH firms stand to lose millions of pounds of business if, as expected, the United States passes controversial legislation imposing sanctions on non-American companies trading with Iran's oil industry.

Concern is mounting on both sides of the Atlantic that the issue, already discussed several times between Prime Minister John Major and President Bill Clinton, will create a damaging public row if the bill passes into law.

Under the proposed legislation, drawn up as part of a wide-ranging effort to isolate Iran, non-US companies involved in Iran's gas and oil sector could have their operations in the US prohibited and find themselves excluded from US government contracts.

According to figures compiled by the Department of Trade and Industry, of the £300m of British exports to Iran last year, half went to the oil and gas sector while the London office of the National Iranian Oil Company spends around £40m annually in Britain.

Most British companies selling pumps, valves and connectors to Iran also sell to

the US and now face a stark choice between the two markets.

Foreign Office officials are also arguing that the measures, expected to become law next month, are unlikely to affect Iran in the short and medium term, and that the main result will be to penalise British firms and encourage a black market in parts and spares.

But Britain's concern is less about the relatively small sums of money involved and more about the extension of the principle of "extra-territoriality" — when a government imposes sanctions because it objects to something outside its jurisdiction.

Britain, which is the US's largest trading partner in the European Union, is also worried about the growing tendency for delicate issues of international trade and foreign policy to be driven by a domestic political agenda.

The Iran bill was introduced last year by Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York and was watered down, but an even tougher version has just emerged from the House International Relations Committee. Separate moves are being proposed against non-US firms investing in Libya.

Similar unilateral US measures imposed against Cuba have already drawn strong protests from Britain and its

European Union partners. Intense lobbying against the Iran sanctions has failed to make any headway in Washington; the British ambassador, Sir John Kerr, has been writing to individual congressmen while efforts are being made to find a united position within the EU.

The US insists that any legislation would not be in breach of World Trade Organisation rules because the proposed action is determined by permitted "essential security interests" and would thus be hard for other member states to oppose.

President Clinton announced last May that he was banning all trade between US companies and Iran. After the embargo took effect, US oil companies halted purchases of Iranian crude amounting to about \$4 billion a year.

For US policymakers, Iran is probably one of the two most dangerous regimes on earth — the other being Libya. US officials accuse Iran of:

• engaging in a "crash programme" to develop nuclear weapons with technology imported from Russia and China;

• seeking to sabotage the Middle East peace process;

• menacing its neighbours;

• committing serious human rights abuses.

Babcock claims Saudi dissident cost £200m

Torry May

THE engineering combine Babcock International yesterday claimed it had lost £200 million of Saudi orders over the al-Mas'ari affair, savaging profits to a mere £3 million.

John Parker, Babcock's chairman, said that like other UK process engineering companies it had lost contracts — mainly to US and Japanese firms — because of the continuing dispute over the fate of the leading Saudi dissident, Mohammed al-Mas'ari who has been running a political campaign against Saudi rulers from Britain.

His successful court appeal earlier this month against deportation irritated the UK government and the Saudi regime.

Mr Parker said: "As far as I know no British process contractor has won a job down there in six

months." The Department of Trade and Industry said: "The Saudis have given us an assurance that there is no discrimination against British companies on political grounds." It urged companies with a problem to produce evidence to the effect.

Firms including Davy, John Brown Engineering and Babcock, claimed last week that the authorities in Riyadh had withdrawn their favoured contractor status on some projects, and eliminated them from the bidding process on others.

The shares of British Aerospace yesterday fell 14p to 864p as concern grew that its mammoth al-Yamamah arms deal — worth £2 billion a year — might be affected by the tensions.

Mr Parker said "lost" Saudi orders involved process-plant contracting in the petrochemicals industry. Saudi Arabia normally accounts for the bulk of Babcock's sales in the

Middle East. He said the company had been establishing new markets in Yemen, Syria, and Pakistan, to offset lost business in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Parker added that the group had also faced problems in Germany, where they had been reorganising for two years, cutting staff by 40 per cent and reducing sites from two to six. "The savagery of the surgery was pretty awful," he said.

In a warning issued to the Stock Exchange, Babcock said that group profits would be "significantly below" market forecasts in the second half of 1995-96. After an £18 million operational loss, offset by a £21 million exceptional gain, profits will reach only £3 million for the year to March 31.

The news sent the group's shares down to a five-year low of 108p at one point. They later rallied and ended the day off 15p/2 at 112p.

News in brief

1.4m on line for Railtrack shares

MORE THAN 1.4 million people are reported to have registered with the 110 share shops around the country with the intention of cashing in on the Railtrack share offer.

The response to the share offer, registration for which closes next Monday, had been good and that a final surge was expected before the close.

Those registering will be able to choose either an instalment discount or bonus shares. The instalment discount is 15p off the price of each share purchased in the UK public offer. As an alternative, those registering can choose bonus shares. They will receive one free share for every 15 purchased and held continuously until May 31, 1999.

Pru silent over Friends bid

PRUDENTIAL, the UK's largest life insurer, yesterday declined to comment on reports that it had made an offer to buy mutual life group Friends Provident.

Friends Provident, which has £15 billion in funds, is understood to have received a handful of bids in the region of £750 million to £1 billion.

New CAA chairman named

SIR Malcolm Field, former head of WH Smith, the books and periodicals chain, was yesterday appointed chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority in succession to Sir Christopher Chataway, who stands down at the end of the month.

He comes to the CAA at a time when it is handling 12 per cent more flights than in 1993, while average flight delays have fallen by 8 per cent over the same period.

Lower bill for Equitas

LLOYD'S of London has sharply cut its estimates of the cost of setting up Equitas, the company planned to take over the loss-stricken insurance market's old liabilities.

STENA, the world's largest international ferry company, lost more in the first quarter this year than in the same period in 1995 because of strong competition from Eurotunnel.

STENA, the world's largest international ferry company, lost more in the first quarter this year than in the same period in 1995 because of strong competition from Eurotunnel.



Nichols and peace... Chief executive Joseph Wan prepares to go to market later this week PHOTOGRAPH BY GARRY WEAVER



Harvey Nicks sale — shares must go

Ian King

HARVEY Nichols — the London department store frequented by, among others, the Princess of Wales and the fictional Patsy and Edna of TV's Absolutely Fabulous — will be valued at almost £150 million when shares in the business start trading on Friday.

Shares of Harvey Nichols, which is owned by Hong Kong luxury goods company Dickson Concepts, are being placed with City institutions at 270p each. The shares are being priced at the top end of City expectations, reflecting high demand for the issue, which was 15 times oversubscribed.

The valuation also represents a handsome profit for Dickson, which is retaining a 30.1 per cent stake in Harvey Nichols, and which bought the then loss-making store from Burton, the clothes retailer, in 1991 for £51 million.

Strong arms may not be quite enough to steer Sears out of troubled waters

OUTLOOK/ ROGER COWE doubts if Sir Bob Reid's deck-clearing will put retailer on the right course

FOR Sir Bob Reid, once of Shell and British Rail, now chairman of Sears, 1995 was a year of "clearing the decks for action", so he could accept yesterday that the reported pre-tax loss of £120 million could be described as a bloodbath.

But ignoring those losses, the basic trading of the group was poor, even with the benefit of a 63rd week of trading. Only Adams childrenswear and the Selfridges department store increased profits.

The ups and downs in sales led to poor sales, lower profit margins and higher costs which added up to £31 million. Even the continuing brands saw profits dip from £25 million to £16 million, mainly to a miserable time at Dolcis.

Other divisions fared much better. But the Freeman's mail order business reported slightly lower sales, after taking out the extra week, and profits fell by £3 million — apparently because of poor recruitment of agents to take the catalogues.

The trouble with retailing, as others such as House of Fraser have illustrated, is that it is very easy to buy wrong products. Everybody

has built a hugely powerful brand. That way, customers are buying the name (such as M&S or Next) just as much as the clothing.

Mr Strong was recruited for his brand-building skills, now evident by the belated promotion of Selfridges in locations other than London.

But it is rather difficult to build a brand in the crowded High Street or retail park than it is in the air, where BA had a virtual monopoly.

Sears' dominance of High Street shoe retailing was a little short of that, though still substantial, but that dominance seems to have been dispensed.

The new formats, Shoe Express and Shoe City, are growing fast, and it has long been recognised that Sears would do better with far fewer formats, but surely it wasn't necessary to abandon virtually everything else so expensively?

Retail analyst John Richards of NatWest Markets applied Sir Bob Reid's nautical analogy: "The boat has been sailing in rough seas and they have been throwing lots of stuff overboard to stay afloat. They are clearly sailing into less troubled waters but there is still a credibility problem as to whether they have the right captain."

Mr Strong said yesterday the year had begun badly in mail order and there would be little good news in the first six months. Pretty soon after that he will have to demonstrate that Sears has more skill at retailing than metaphors, or he is likely to walk the plank.

Table with financial data for Sears. Columns include 'Most divisions dip...', 'Trading profit (£m)', and 'Net loss/profit (£m)'. Rows list various divisions like Shoes, Mail order, Selfridges, Adams, and Women's wear, with profit/loss figures for 1991-1995.



Racing

Champion jockey expects bold showing from 1,000 Guineas outsider. Ron Cox reports

Dettori chooses Maid For The Hills

ANOTHER piece in the classic jigsaw slotted into place yesterday when Frankie Dettori was booked to ride Maid For The Hills for David Loder in the Pertemps 1,000 Guineas on Sunday week.

Stable companion to Blue Dancer, pulled out of the Guineas because of a muscle problem, Maid For The Hills stayed on to finish fifth behind Thurling Day in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at last week's Craven Meeting.

"I've never ridden her before on the track and she's beaten me a few times," said Dettori, who had two winners at Pontefract yesterday.

"I've ridden her to work a few times and she runs a nice race in the Nell Gwyn. There's an odds-on chance to beat so we'll be hoping for second place."

Maid For The Hills was trained to 40-1 from 66-1 by Ladbrokes as a result of the booking of Dettori. Perhaps of greater significance is the fact that Sheikh Mohammed's first jockey, who is expected to partner the Godolphin runner, Bint Shadayid, in the 1,000 Guineas.

Dettori carried the Godolphin colours into third place on Monday in last year's Fildes Classic. But, although he will ride Mark de Esteim for the Sheikh's Dubai-based operation in the 2,000 Guineas, Richard Hills is expected to partner Bint Shadayid.

Trained by John Dunlop last season, when she won twice and chased home Bora Sham in the Fildes Mile at Ascot, Bint Shadayid reportedly failed to shine in her last piece of serious work in Dubai.

This would appear to be a reflection of the riding arrangements, although Bint Shadayid may be the type to reserve her best for the track



Smart winner... Smart Guest, second right, proves too good for his rivals in yesterday's Bentley Selling Stakes at Pontefract

and work-outs on the sand, however searching, could be misleading. Credible alternatives to Bora Sham, the 5-2 on favourite, are certainly thin on the ground. A possible danger disappeared when Crispin Head decided to re-route A Votre Santé to the French 1,000 Guineas.

Henry Cecil would appear to have things sewn up with Bora Sham and there is growing confidence behind his 2,000 Guineas candidate, Storm Trooper, who was backed from 12-1 to 10's with Hill's yesterday.

Silver Dome, one of Cecil's Derby entries and as low as 14-1 in some lists, will be an interesting runner in the Thresher Classic Trial at Sandown on Saturday. My information of 25-1 may not last much longer and should be taken before Dushyantir reappears, probably at the Guineas meeting.

For many, flat racing will take second place at Sandown on Saturday with the 40th running of the Whitbread Gold Cup. Hill's yesterday saw good support for Morcell,

from 9-1 to 7-1, and Proud Sun, into 10-1 from 14's. Feathered Gale drifted slightly out to 11-2, but his trainer, Arthur Moore, and jockey, Francis Woods, continue in fine form. They took the 500,000 BMW Chase at Funchestown yesterday with Klairon Davis, who gave weight and a 10 lengths beating to old rival Sound Man.

Southwell (A.W.)

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and winners.

Perth (N.H.)

Table of race results for Perth (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and winners.

Catterick card with guide to the form

Table of race results for Catterick card with guide to the form, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) - 2.00 APPROXIMATE CLASSES STAKES (20-25) 1m 20.000

Table of race results for Perth (N.H.) - 2.40 PARTY STARTED BARRON HURDLE (2m 47 1/2) 10yds 22,100

Table of race results for Catterick card with guide to the form - 2.20 HILLSIDE HILL APPRENTICE LIMITED STAKES OF 20,000

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) - 2.30 GINNY CUP APPRENTICE HANICAP (2m 47 1/2) 10yds 22,100

Table of race results for Perth (N.H.) - 3.10 MALVERN HOUSE HOTEL MATTHEW HANICAP HURDLE (2m 47 1/2) 10yds 22,100

Table of race results for Catterick card with guide to the form - 2.50 Jockey Club Handicap Stakes (2m 47 1/2) 10yds 22,100

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) - 3.00 APPROXIMATE CLASSES STAKES (20-25) 1m 20.000

Table of race results for Perth (N.H.) - 3.40 GLENVIEW HILL AND HILL TOWNSHIRE HANICAP HURDLE (2m 47 1/2) 10yds 22,100

Table of race results for Catterick card with guide to the form - 3.20 HILLSIDE HILL APPRENTICE LIMITED STAKES OF 20,000

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) - 4.00 APPROXIMATE CLASSES STAKES (20-25) 1m 20.000

Table of race results for Perth (N.H.) - 4.10 ALBERT BARKLEY & SONS HANICAP HURDLE (2m 47 1/2) 10yds 22,100

Table of race results for Catterick card with guide to the form - 3.50 APPROXIMATE CLASSES STAKES (20-25) 1m 20.000

Sport and Law

Skiing officials agree to pay for Maier death

San Tragnon in Bonn

THE trial of two senior international ski officials charged with "negligently killing" a former Austrian world champion was suddenly halted yesterday when a surprise out-of-court settlement was reached to pay the victim's daughter more than £300,000 in compensation.

But in what threatened to be yet another landmark verdict for sports authorities, the judge in the Munich court said that the two defendants appeared to be "marginally guilty" and that the trial would be resumed unless they paid the settlement in full by the end of next month.

The 26-year-old Ulrike Maier, a popular two-time super giant slalom world champion, died in January 1994 in World Cup slalom competition in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in southern Germany. She broke her neck and died within hours after slipping and crashing into a timber pole near the end of the run.

Hubert Schweighofer, her partner and father of her six-year-old daughter Melanie, blamed the two International Skiing Federation officials in charge of the race, Kurt Hoch, 48, of Austria, and Jan Tschannbauer, 46, of Switzerland.

Nine months after the death the Bavarian prosecution authorities halted their inquiries, deciding against pressing charges against the officials. But constant lobbying from Schweighofer and his legal team persuaded the prosecution to reopen the case.

His campaign came to a climax on Monday when the officials went before the Munich court charged with manslaughter because of the sitting of the timing pole, which narrowed the run by four yards. This, the prosecution alleged, made them responsible for the tragedy.

The two defendants vehemently denied their guilt when the trial opened on Monday, blaming the accident on the overwhelming pressure of Alpine skiing which drove competitors to over-cruise their equipment and risk too fast. Maier was travelling along at 85mph when she crashed.

They told the court that the suspect timing post had been in place for four days before the accident and had prompted no protests. They added that in long careers in skiing they had never seen or heard of an accident of the type in which a timing pole near the end of the run.

But the prosecution planned the blame for the death squarely on the timing post and the fact that it lacked adequate warning and yesterday's settlement was hailed by Schweighofer as a partial admission of guilt by the officials.

He had said that if the two were found guilty he would have sued them for one million marks on behalf of his daughter. The agreed settlement of 600,000 Swiss crowns (around £320,000) fell about £100,000 short of the threatened million marks but Judge Klaus Rebhan also ordered the defendants to pay 20,000 marks (£2,700) to the Garmisch mountain rescue service.

If the trial is resumed and the defendants are found guilty, they face five-year prison terms and further hefty fines.

enough waters

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Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring contact information and a list of racing results for various tracks including Catterick, Perth, Southwell, and Irish.

Boxing

Sleaze ban on Tyson

LIKE a merciful referee, a United States court yesterday stepped in to rescue Mike Tyson from himself. Two weeks ago Tyson, who has a costly history of molestation and rape, was accused of interfering with a woman in a Chicago nightclub. The Cluque. Yesterday he was ordered to stay out of sleazy bars and strip clubs, "establishments that serve alcohol or feature erotic entertainment". He agreed to comply with the order.

Last month Tyson, 29, smashed Frank Bruno to defeat to regain the WBC heavyweight title. At one time he held all the heavyweight belts. Indeed, he seems to fare far worse against pretty women than against all the giants he faces inside the ropes.

The latest allegation is that Tyson "kissed and fondled" a 25-year-old beauty consultant and "sucked her cheek" when she was lured to a private room at the club. Police were not sufficiently impressed with her story to arrest him, but it is nevertheless a serious matter for someone still on probation after being paroled out of prison halfway through a six-year sentence for rape.

Tyson has always denied raping a 19-year-old beauty queen contestant but still faces her multi-million-dollar civil suit for damages. Complaints have been lodged against him by several other women, including a car-park attendant and a salesgirl in a shopping mall.

His defenders suggest that as a millionaire sports star he is an automatic target for unscrupulous female opportunists. His marriage ended in a huge financial settlement to his wife, the actress Robin Givens, whom Tyson would later describe as "the slime of the slime". "The purpose of the new restrictions is to keep Tyson out of potential trouble situations," said George Walker, chief probation officer for Warren County, Ohio, where Tyson makes his principal home. "In case he couldn't figure it out before, if not only puts him on notice but his staff and friends on notice."

While in prison Tyson claimed to have embraced the Islam faith, which forbids alcohol and generally imposes a strict moral code. This does not explain why he was doing in Chicago's South Side on that fateful night two weeks ago — and in the past company of Oliver McCall, the hard-living former big-time boxer who only hours after that incident was arrested in possession of marijuana.

British team is doubled

BRITAIN has avoided the ignominy of having only one Olympic representative in the Atlanta ring this summer. Until yesterday the sole flag-bearer was the Liverpool featherweight David Burke. He will now be joined by Fola Oskola, a heavyweight from south London's Lynn Club.

The curious reason is that Michael Benn of Denmark, who outpointed Oskola at the recent European championships, has been withdrawn. Danish officials reportedly gave Benn little chance of winning a medal.

The British team may be further increased by wildcard entries allowed if the African, Oceanic and South American countries do not send a full complement of competitors.

Michael Ayers, the British lightweight champion from Tooting, has withdrawn from his European title challenge to Angel Mora of France in Andres this Saturday.

Ayers, who last May won an outright Lonsdale Belt in the record span of 56 days, is not happy with his purse of £17,000. The original offer of £27,000 was more than halved when two dates of February 3 and March 29 fell through.

Prince Naseem Hamed's WBO featherweight title defence against Daniel Alicea of Puerto Rico at Newcastle Arena on June 8 will have another world title fight on the card, an all-American affair for the WBA super-middleweight title between Frankie Liles and Tim Little.

to Anfield

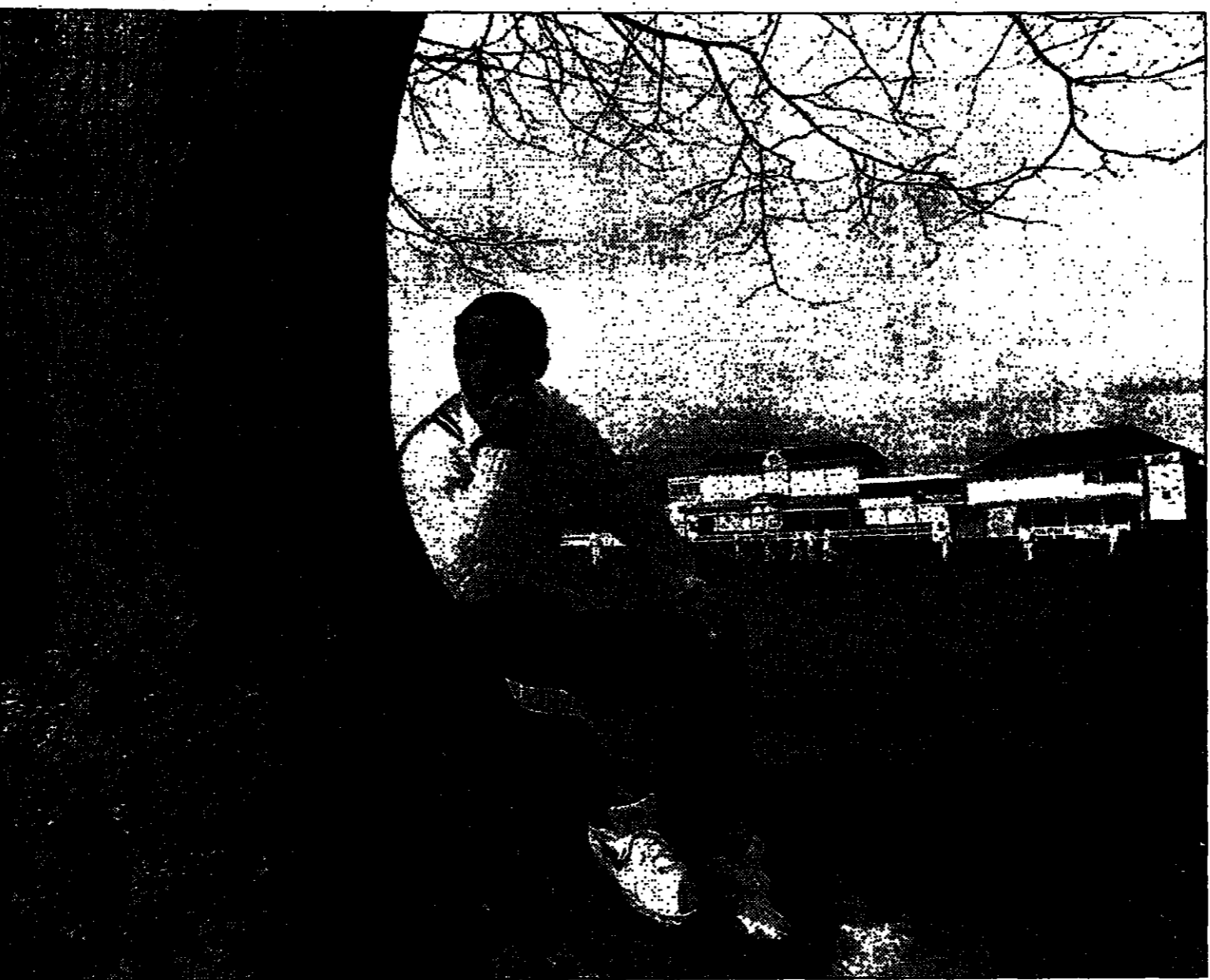
's golden chance attacking problem

to Anfield

's golden chance attacking problem

to Anfield

's golden chance attacking problem



In the limelight... Dean Headley, taking a break by Canterbury's famous landmark, has an impressive family tree

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENNINGS

Headley continues family business

Paul Weaver on the Kent seamer with England ambitions but whose father and grandfather both batted for West Indies

IN RECENT years a tour of Pakistan has been the England cricketer's Gulag Archipelago; bowlers have discovered that the wickets have low bounce, and the batsmen have found that the umpires can be even lower.

Headley's withdrawal from Monday's match between England A and The Rest probably brought cruel sniggers from some quarters: Kent's injury-prone fast bowlers Martin McGone and Alan Igglesden have appeared together so rarely that at one stage it was rumoured they were really one man cleverly drawing two salaries.

Headley, 26, had a slight left hip problem with soft tissue and was advised not to play. "It was a big disappointment because I've been bowling well in pre-season training. But I was

only a medium-pace swing bowler. He became one of the great fast bowlers, and in terms of sheer pace I think Deano has the same potential. He could certainly be the new Devon Malcolm." Ray Illingworth, perhaps, hopes not.

With Igglesden injured, Headley is likely to share the new ball with McCague. "To be fair, after last season I would have hoped to get the new ball anyway. I also hope to improve with the bat, although I am a bowler who can hold a bat rather than an all-rounder."

Headley, as he may be tired of being reminded, is the grandson of George and the son of Ron. George Headley was one of the greatest of batsmen; discounting the brief and current careers of Brian Lara and Jimmy Adams of West Indies, only Don Bradman (68.94) and Graeme Pollock (60.97) have better Test averages than his 60.83. And Ron Headley was an elegant left-handed opening

batman for Worcestershire in the Sixties and Seventies and was perhaps unlucky to play only two Tests in 1973. "When I was 11 or so I thought of playing for West Indies like them. But I was born in Stourbridge, near Worcester, and brought up in this country. I'm English, and there was really only one choice to be made. I love Jamaica but I've only been to the place a couple of times.

"I met my grandfather when I was 11, shortly before he died. He was given an Air Jamaica ticket and visited us in Stourbridge. I remember him taking me in the back garden and throwing the ball at me."

If Dean Headley does not play Test cricket too, there could be a future in modelling; he has recently done a shoot with the Manchester-based agency Respect. Perhaps someone should tell him that male modelling did little for Chris Lewis's career.

Snooker

McManus shows steel

Clive Everton in Sheffield

ALAN McMANUS, often the forgotten member of Scotland's snooker triumvirate after Stephen Hendry and John Higgins, underlined his credentials as a potential winner of the £1.2 million Embassy World Championship at the Crucible Theatre yesterday.

McManus, 5-3 down overnight having engaged nothing higher than second gear in the first session on Monday, powered to a 10-5 victory over Mick Price, a tough if little-known professional from Newcastle.

The Glaswegian was well aware of the danger that he

might join John Parrott, beaten 10-6 by Rod Lawler on Monday, as an unexpected early casualty. But an unforced error from Price proved crucial and cost him much more than the ninth frame.

The world No. 21 appeared to be heading for a 6-3 advantage until he jawed an elementary pink. A couple of visits later, McManus fashioned a 38 clearance to trail only 5-4 and Price, unsuccessful in their four previous meetings, was visibly shaken. The extent of this quickly became apparent and a terminal collapse set in.

Price aggregated only 48 points from the ensuing six frames as McManus pulled

away to a comfortable win with breaks of 48, 55, 47, 125, 43 and 64.

McManus will now play Price in the first round of the World No. 21 tour, but he will be playing on a level playing field.

McManus's performance had many similarities to the rearguard action produced by Steve Davis to reach the last 16 and record his 51st match win at the Crucible.

Davis, winner of the championship six times between 1981 and 1989, burned the midnight oil on Monday prior to rallying from an 8-5 deficit to beat Willie Thorne 10-6.

Thorne may be able to teach Greg Norman a thing or two about surrendering seemingly unassailable advantages.

Rugby League

Hughes is favourite to replace sacked Lucas at Leigh

Paul Fitzpatrick

IAN LUCAS, the former Wigan and Great Britain prop, was dismissed as Leigh's coach yesterday after only 16 months in the job.

Leigh, who finished runners-up in the Centenary season's Second Division, have started the new campaign poorly. Sunday's win against Prescot Panthers was the first

in their five league games.

Mick Higgins, the club's chairman, hopes to name a replacement soon. "We are talking to two or three people," he said. Eric Hughes, sacked by St Helens in January, is favourite to take over.

Bernard Dwyer, who injured an elbow in last Friday's game at Wigan, will be at hooker in the Bradford Bulls side to play St Helens in Saturday's Silk Cut Challenge

Cup final at Wembley. There will be a £16,000 prize from the sponsor for the first man to score three tries in the final: no one has since the final moved to Wembley in 1929.

Leeds have signed the goal-kicking back Setaiki Tupua, who played for Tonga in last year's rugby union World Cup. Sheffield Eagles have secured a 21-year-old Australian centre, Danny Grimley.

Oldham's Scott Ranson and Jason Temu have been ordered to appear before tomorrow's disciplinary hearing at Castleford. Temu was placed on report for a high tackle, and Ranson was involved in a tackle which saw Nathan Sykes leave the field with a fractured jaw.

Headed south for Castrols Cup final: Graham Cook, Calford, Loughlin, Seaton, Bradley, Paul McCosker, Dwyer, Harner, Hebble, Douglas, Knox.

in what they described as "massive seas", for a formidable victory.

Speculation that the Grand Mistral Race, due to start in September from Marseille, may not take place this year has been strongly denied by Pierre Fehmann, the race organiser.

Kambli axed by India's selectors

Neil Robinson

INDIA yesterday became embroiled in a selection controversy after excluding Virender Kohli from the tour to England this summer.

The 24-year-old, who has scored 1,084 runs in 17 Tests at an average of 54.20, is replaced by the 23-year-old Sourav Ganguly, who has not played Test cricket.

India's chief selector Gundappa Viswanath said that the Bombay left-hander was not even considered in the two-hour selection meeting but he would not say why.

However, India's former captain Dilip Vengsarkar wrote in yesterday's Asian Age newspaper that he believed Kambli, left out for two one-day tournaments after the World Cup, "was dropped for reasons other than cricket".

Richmond's rugby director Vinny Coddington said: "We have been speaking to Mike and Ben. The discussions are not concluded but we intend making a big hit presentation on May 7."

The date is significant as players' full-back who is officially activated the day before, after the ending of the Rugby Football Union's moratorium on player payments.

Leicester will be without two key players for tonight's crucial Courage league match with Gloucester at Welford Road. The flanker Neil Beck and the injured scrum-half Aadel Kardonov are replaced by Bill Drake-Lee and Jamie Hamilton.

Team talk

The Independent News and Reports Service Call 0891 33 77+

Arsenal	06 Ipswich Town	19 Sheffield United	18
Aston Villa	11 Leeds United	09 Sheffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	34 Luton City	35 Southampton	20
Blackburn	21 Liverpool	04 Stoke City	30
Bolton	36 Man. City	02 Sunderland	27
Brentford	24 Man. United	01 Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31 Middlesbrough	23 West Ham	12
Chelsea	08 Millwall	29 Wimbledon	28
Coventry City	17 Newcastle Utd	16 Wolves	37
Derby County	28 Norwich City	18 Colchester	06
Everton	08 North. Forest	13 Rangers	10
Hudd. Town	32 QPR	25	

Sport

The Guardian

Ski death case ends out of court, page 13

Cruyff Mk II takes centre stage, page 14

Tyson warned off, page 15

Rugby brings Murdoch down to earth, page 15

Sports Guardian

Platt back as England put on their thinking caps

Report by David Lacey

TONIGHT England will get a better idea of how realistic their hopes of winning the European Championship are. Croatia were the most impressive qualifiers for the tournament and are the strongest opponents Terry Venables' team will encounter during the run-in to Euro '96.

Venables, therefore, cannot be faulted for lack of imagination in deciding, at this late stage, that it is about time England joined the mainstream of European football by playing three at the back with five in midfield. The intelligence was not wrong except that Wright will be flanked by two full-backs, Gary Neville and Pearce, rather than having another centre-back, Elniogu, alongside him.

David Platt, who has not played for England since last summer, gets an opportunity to show that, despite his indifferent form since a series of knee operations, he can still turn in a satisfactory international performance.

Platt will wear the captain's armband but is still in the way navy so far as the European Championship is concerned. He needs a convincing game tonight to prove to Venables that, come June, he can be anything more



Have ball, please score... Robbie Fowler gets the chance to prove his international credentials when he starts his first game for England tonight FRANK BAFON

FIVE TO FEAR



Zvonimir Boban

Milan
Captain, wonderful striker of the ball in midfield. Milan discouraged Manchester United's interest in him this season, though they have yet to make him an automatic choice. Croatian nationalist hero since he kicked a Serb policeman during a 1990 match that degenerated into an ethnic scuffle.



Igor Stimac

Derby County
Strong tackler and header of the ball signed by Derby from Hajduk Split for £1.5 million in November. Plays as a sweeper for Derby but as a marking central defender for Croatia. Married to a former Miss Yugoslavia.



Davor Suker

Sevilla
Quick, clever, killer finisher with blazing left foot. Has scored at better than a goal a game for Croatia, including two in the 2-1 European Championship win over Italy in Palermo. Will join Real Madrid next season. Has been learning English in preparation for Euro '96.



Robert Prosinecki

Barcelona
Elegant midfielder who won a European Cup winners' medal with Red Star Belgrade in 1992. Was meant to be a superstar in the making when he joined Real Madrid that year but his two seasons there were blighted by a series of injuries. Barcelona signed him last summer. Heavy smoker.



Alen Boksic

Lazio
Tail, strong striker, renowned dribbler, relentless harrier of defenders. Hard work compensates in some measure for recent goal drought. Won European Cup with Marseille in 1993, then was sold for \$8 million to Lazio, where he has suffered a frustrating season.

Robert Pryce

than a volunteer reserve. For Robbie Fowler, starting an England match for the first time, the evening will be no less crucial. The 21-year-old Liverpool striker now has a

proper chance to show he can score goals against international defences. If he succeeds, Shearer and Ferdinand will be nursing anxieties as well as injuries.

Above all else this will be an intelligence test for England. The system will only work if the players understand their roles, and it may not be entirely coincidental that three of the midfield positions are filled by footballers with Italian league experience — Platt, Ince and Gascoigne.

Yesterday Venables insisted that the formation was not revolutionary, just a logical progression. "I've been looking to change things over a period of time," he said. "This is a natural way of playing."

Of course England will not defend with only three players. Ince will be on hand to step back and help out, so will Stone and Platt, and Gascoigne, as he showed against Bulgaria, can fill a more disciplined role.

The essence of playing this way is that if players have both ability and adaptability a team is better able to switch from defence to attack with-

out exposing itself to opposition counter-thrusts. As Platt explained yesterday: "The format will change as the game changes. We'll be starting with three defenders, but if the opposition start throwing men forward the back three will become a back four."

"At this level the tactical sub-battle is of greater importance. There has to be flexibility in the team and we've been progressing steadily towards this. Against Bulgaria, Southgate stepped up into midfield, this time Ince will be stepping back into defence. What we'll be doing against Croatia is not that new."

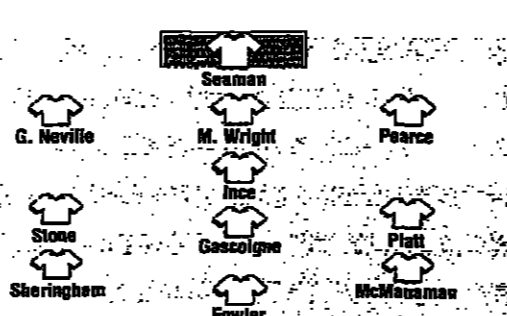
Indeed it is not. England teams habitually played with a centre-half flanked by two full-backs from the mid-Twenties to the early Sixties. What goes on in front of them, however, has altered beyond recognition.

Croatia might beat England tonight if Boban, Boksic, Suker and Prosinecki bypass Ince and leave Wright feeling that his first international for four years is even worse than his last, against Spain in Santander under Graham Taylor. But this will not be another Hungary, another 1983.

"Croatia are a good counter-attacking side," said Venables, "so we'll have to be

patient and not give the ball away. They'll do us some damage if we go at it a bit gung-ho." But if the night belongs to Fowler, England's supporters will be gung-hoing their way home all the same.

CROATIA: Ladis (Croatia Zagreb); Bilo (West Ham); Jerkic (Real Oviedo); Simec (Derby); Jurecic (Freiburg); Anusovic (Leeds); Spina (Barnsley); Prosinecki (Barcelona); Jami (Real Betis); Suker (Sevilla); Boksic (Lazio).



Snail in ginger beer at root of rugby ruckus



Vincent Hanna

THE first thing we tall trainees," says Steve Griffiths, "if it looks dangerous: stop it." Steve is referees' development officer for the Rugby Football Union and a careful man.

His aim is to ensure that, within five years, every rugby game, at whatever level, is controlled by a trained referee. To that end he supplies manuals, videos, information packs, training courses, appraisals, and assessments. Insurance is also available.

These things should reassure you that your son (or daughter) is as safe as possible when playing junior rugby. Ironically they may also make it easier to sue the referee. This is all about the Ben Smoldon case last week. He was paralysed in 1991 after a scrum collapsed, when he was 17, and won a case in negligence against the referee. It throws a hand-grenade into the administration of team sports, and will cost clubs dearly in extra insurance premiums.

This leaves thousands of dedicated, unpaid men and women, who give up their time to coach and referee junior rugby, at some personal risk. As Roger Uttley said on Saturday, they have reason to look worried.

But not surprised. The Tort of Negligence has been open for business in sport for about 25 years, and it's a wonder to me why it has taken this long to get serious with the amateurs.

The Smoldon case puts me on the spot. Not the decision, which was legally impeccable. This was a colts game where special, and in this case misunderstood, laws existed for their protection.

I have a conflict of loyalties. I must confess, I was once a practising lawyer, specialising in personal-injury cases. I admit it.

But to move downwards, I hear you cry, from a profession held in such low esteem... to journalism? I am clearly a dangerous recidivist and you understand why I keep quiet about it.

There's more. I have on a few occasions refereed rugby matches, always because the proper ref hadn't turned up for the fourth-XV game. I was in-

competent. No, I was a menace, usually because I got completely carried away and became partisan.

"Cheering on the home side I can live with," one genial captain explained to me, "but tackling our out-half is a bit much."

So the referee *marque* says: what a shame and a pity for the sport. The lawyer rubs his hands and thinks: that's good for business.

The modern Tort of Negligence began with a snail in a bottle of ginger beer in 1932, the sight of which allegedly caused a lady to feel ill.

Donoghue-v-Stevenson became one of the pillars of our common law. Lord Atkin said, you must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure your neighbour, whom he defined as someone you ought reasonably to have in mind at the time.

It opened a flood of cases based on the principle. Once you owe a duty of care, you must not directly or indirectly cause damage that could reasonably be foreseen. So: wet hospital floors, unguarded manholes, missing light-bulbs have given damages to the injured and second homes to lawyers.

Sports cases used to be rare. They mostly concerned the liability of the occupiers of premises to the public. Apart from great public tragedies, such as the Bradford fire and Hillsborough, they used to get short shrift.

A child got an ice-hockey puck in the face at Haringey in 1951; serve the father right for taking him there. A Mr Bolton was hit on the head outside a cricket ground; next time take a detour.

BUT that has changed — as we have changed. It is the special virtue of the Common Law to embody the development of our nation. So as sport is reorganised and developed, so inevitably change the duties placed upon its participants.

We have seen the courts regularly intervene in professional sport. I can't remember many cries of outrage about that. And we should not be shocked now.

If organising bodies responsibly impose duties upon referees and coaches for the protection of the vulnerable then, just as it has since the reign of Henry II, the Common Law will find new ways to enforce them.

To say "if it looks dangerous, stop it," is merely to invite one of Her Majesty's Justices — sooner or later — to say: "Well, it looked dangerous to me, and you didn't."

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Saddam fails to invade the world of chess

Leonard Barden

SADDAM HUSSEIN will not host the world championship after all.

Worldwide protests have forced the International Chess Federation (Fide) to cancel plans for Anatoly Karpov to play Gata Kamsky in Baghdad in June with £1.3 million at stake.

Several countries threatened to walk out of the 150-nation world body. Leaders of European federations called an emergency summit meeting, and the US

State Department forbade Kamsky to play. The former Soviet prodigy, now applying for American citizenship, had to comply.

Prize-money now comes down to \$550,000 and the match goes to Elista, capital of the small Russian republic of Kalmykia, whose president, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, just happens to be Fide's new leader.

Last Tuesday the Times praised Goldsmith for "the purity of his message" — though the paper neglected to add that its owner, Rupert Murdoch, is an old pal who has enjoyed Goldsmith's hospitality at his Xanadu-style estate in Mexico.

Continued on page 5

Guardian Crossword No 20,635

Set by Chifonie

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11									
13									
17									
22									
25									
27									

Across
1 Is the ghost of the theatre purged by this? (8,6)
9 See man about to ban red roses, for instance (4,5)
10 Either way it's direct (6)
11 College said to be eroded (5)
12 Time-waster makes sweet item with hesitation (9)
13 Stands at the game to see the Queen in shadows (8)
14 Study the odds before broadcast (6)
17 Cause a sensation with old quote (6)
19 Consume salesman taking fish (8)
22 Cry of pain by leader of Dis Town accepting scoring move (9)
24 Love to get footballer unsettled (5)

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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Down
1 Sat night in spotlight to show main characteristic (7,7)
2 Shipbuilder drops alien in the water (7)
3 Mean social worker is a manager (8)
4 Enquire about the condition of cooked RAF steak (3,5)
5 Small group surrounds pupil enlightened by star (8)
6 The opening of a chain letter (5)
7 Transposed a popular passage from the bible (7)
8 King glared at the ref. for bungling (6,3,5)

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